

**The Creative Power of Divine Favor**

**GOD STILL DOES  
WHAT HAS NEVER  
BEEN DONE!**

LUKE 1:37

DR. DARRYL T. CANADY  
RODMAN STREET CHURCH  
3.8.26

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## **Sermon Analysis**

**Title:** God Still Does What Has Never Been Done: The Creative Power of Divine Favor

## **Sermon Summary:**

This powerful exploration of creativity and divine possibility centers on the sixth principle of Kwanzaa—Kuumba, which means creativity. Drawing from Genesis 1, Luke 1:37, and the book of Acts, we discover that the same God who created the world from nothing, who brought forth a Savior through a virgin womb, is still doing impossible things today. The central message resonates through Luke 1:37: 'For with God nothing is ever impossible, and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment.' We learn that God's creative power didn't stop with creation—it continues through His people when we surrender to His will into the present-day church. The pastor emphasizes that the same God who created the world from nothing and brought forth a Savior through a virgin womb continues to do unprecedented works today.

Central to the message is the concept that God's creativity flows through surrendered faith and chosen participants who make themselves available for His purposes. The overarching theme is that divine favor, faith, and surrender position believers to participate in God's continuing creative

work, regardless of obstacles, opposition, or past failures. Mary's response to the angel teaches us that creativity flows through surrendered faith. She didn't create the miracle; she carried it. Similarly, we are called not to manufacture God's promises but to participate in them. The sermon connects this ancient truth of biblical creativity to modern-day ministry, through the Community of Hope Vision and the LIFE Male STEAM Academy, demonstrating that when communities believe God's promises and say 'yes' to His vision, impossibilities become realities and illustrating that God still opens doors, creates opportunities, and fulfills promises that seem impossible.

We're reminded that favor precedes miracles, that God chooses ordinary people for extraordinary purposes, and that our availability matters more than our ability. This message challenges us to stop living beneath our calling and to recognize that God is still creating new pathways, new opportunities, and new hope in places where others see only limitations.

## **Chapters**

### **Chapter 1: Introduction to Kuumba: God's Creative Power**

We explore the sixth principle of Kwanzaa, Kuumba (creativity), and discover how God's creative power spans from Genesis to Luke, demonstrating that nothing is impossible with God.

### **Chapter 2: The Power of God's Favor and Faith**

We discover that God's favor precedes His miracles, and that Mary's response of faith teaches us how to participate in God's creative work through surrender and availability.

### **Chapter 3: Chosen Participants in God's Creative Work**

We learn that God chooses to work through surrendered people who believe His promises, and that our faith makes us participants in God's creative purposes for our generation.

### **Chapter 4: God's Continuing Purpose and Fulfilled Promises**

We celebrate that God is not only a promise maker but a promise keeper, and His Word continues to create new realities in our lives, families, and communities right now.

#### **Key Points:**

- God's creative power is demonstrated throughout Scripture, from creating the world in Genesis to creating a Savior through the virgin Mary in Luke
- Creativity (Kuumba) is the sixth principle of Kwanzaa, following unity, self-determination, collective responsibility, cooperative economics, and purpose
- Divine favor precedes miracles—Mary was "highly favored" before the miraculous conception occurred
- Favor is not earned but chosen by God, and it creates the atmosphere where creativity happens
- God rarely works alone; He chooses human participants who surrender their will to His purposes
- Faith makes believers available for God's creative work—availability matters more than ability
- Mary didn't create the miracle but carried it; believers are vision carriers, not vision creators

- God is a promise keeper who always finishes what He starts and fulfills His word
- The Community of Hope and LIFE Male STEAM Academy represent God's continuing creative work in the present day
- Opposition and obstacles cannot stop what God has ordained—"nothing" can prevent God's purposes
- God's promises extend beyond individuals to impact entire communities and future generations
- Christians must believe God's Word even when circumstances appear impossible

### **Scripture References:**

- Luke 1:37 (Primary text, Amplified Version): "For with God nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment"
- Luke 1:28: "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you"
- Luke 1:38: "Then Mary said, 'Behold, I am a servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word'"
- Luke 1:45: "Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord will fulfill his promises to her"
- Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"
- John 1:1, 14: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us"

- Philippians 4:13: Referenced regarding doing all things through Christ (the anointed one)

### **Stories:**

- **The Virgin Birth Narrative:** The story of Mary receiving the angelic announcement that she would conceive Jesus through the Holy Spirit, emphasizing that this miracle had never been done before and would never be done again
- **LIFE Male STEAM Academy:** The seven-year journey of establishing the school despite opposition, including a recent hearing where opponents tried to shut it down, but God's favor prevailed
- **The Morehouse College Chant:** Personal testimony about the pastor's first day at Morehouse where students chanted "Rain can't stop the house, snow can't stop the house, nobody can stop the house"
- **Deacon Fair's Faithfulness:** Funeral testimony from the previous day about a deacon who cared for his wife for 25 years after she had a seizure in 2000, demonstrating faithfulness to marriage vows "in sickness and in health"
- **The 100-Year-Old Uncle:** Brief mention of the pastor's uncle Walter Jackson, Jr. who just turned 100 years old and still lives independently with a sharp mind, illustrating God's favor and sustaining power
- **The Woman Who Received a Heart Transplant:** Reference to a church member, Dawn Murray, who received a real heart (not an artificial mechanical one) and is still living because God favored her

- **Joseph, Moses, and Daniel:** Brief references to biblical figures whom God delivered from impossible situations—Joseph from prison to governor, Moses leading the exodus and parting the Red Sea, Daniel and the three Hebrew boys protected in the lion's den and fiery furnace
- **Jesus Feeding the 5,000:** Mentioned as an example of God doing the impossible with limited resources (a boy's fish and bread)
- **The Billboard Message:** The pastor saw a billboard on Highway 30 stating, "If our children are our future, their right now matters," emphasizing the urgency of investing in young people today

## Scripture References from the Sermon

### Explicitly Mentioned Scripture References:

1. **Luke 1:37** - Primary text (read from Amplified version): "For with God nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment."
2. **Genesis 1:1** - "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"
3. **Luke 1:28** - "Greetings, you who are highly favored. The Lord is with you."
4. **Luke 1:38** - "Then Mary said, Behold, I am a servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."
5. **Luke 1:45** - "Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord will fulfill his promises to her."
6. **John 1:14** - "And the word became flesh and made his dwelling among us"

### **Alluded to or Paraphrased Scripture References:**

7. **Philippians 4:13** - "I can do all things through Christ"
8. **Matthew 25:21** - "Well done, thy good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over the little"
9. **Psalms 23:4** - "When I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I don't fear no evil"
10. **Isaiah 54:17** - "No weapon formed against me shall prosper"
11. **Deuteronomy 28:13** - "I'm the head and not the tail"
12. **Deuteronomy 28:3, 6** - "I'm blessed in the city...blessed in the field...blessed when I come...blessed when I go"
13. **Psalms 91:7** - "A thousand may fall at my side. Ten thousand may fall at my right hand"
14. **John 14:6** - "I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no one come to the Father but by me"
15. **Ephesians 3:20** - "He's able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask, think, or even imagine"
16. **Matthew 24:35** - "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but God's word will remain forever"

### **Biblical Stories Referenced:**

17. **Genesis** - Joseph delivered from prison and became governor
18. **Exodus** - Israelites freed from Egyptian slavery, Red Sea parting
19. **Exodus 17** - Water from the rock
20. **Daniel 3** - Three Hebrew boys in the fiery furnace

21. **Daniel 6** - Daniel in the lion's den
22. **Gospels** - Jesus feeding the 5,000
23. **Genesis** - Abraham's promise of a nation
24. **Exodus** - Moses as deliverer

### **Suggested Additional Verses for Main Themes:**

- **Creativity/God Creates:** Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 139:13-14
- **Favor:** Proverbs 3:3-4, Psalm 5:12
- **Faith and Surrender:** Hebrews 11:1, Proverbs 3:5-6
- **God's Promises:** 2 Corinthians 1:20, Numbers 23:19
- **Nothing Impossible with God:** Jeremiah 32:17, Matthew 19:26

### **QUOTES:**

God still does what has never been done. The same creative God that was in Genesis showed up over in Luke. The same God that created the world from nothing in Genesis 1, in Luke 1, He creates a Savior in a place where life had never existed before.

For with God nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment. When God decides to create something new, nothing can stop Him.

Favor is the atmosphere where creativity happens. Favor is God saying, I have chosen you. I have seen you. I have assigned you. Mary did not earn this favor. God chose her.

It's not about your abilities or your inabilities. It's about your availability. God does not look for perfect people. He looks for believing people. He looks for ordinary people and he will turn ordinary people into vessels of extraordinary miracles.

Mary did not create the miracle, she carried it. Sometimes that's our role. We don't create the miracle, but we carry the vision. Faith carries what God conceives.

If our children are our future, their right now matters. In other words, if we don't do it now, they are not going to have a future.

When God speaks a promise, He does not forget it. When God declares a word, He does not abandon it. When God begins a work, He does not leave it unfinished. Because God is not only a promise maker, He's a promise keeper.

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**5-Day Devotional: God Still Does What Has Never Been Done**

**Day 1: The Creative Power of God**

**Reading:** Genesis 1:1-5; Luke 1:37

**Devotional:** "In the beginning, God created..." These opening words remind us that our God is fundamentally creative. Before anything existed, God spoke and creation responded. The same God who created light from darkness is still creating possibilities in your life today. Luke 1:37 declares that nothing is impossible with God. What "impossible" situation are you facing? Remember, the God who created the universe

from nothing can create hope where there is despair, opportunity where there are limitations, and breakthrough where there are barriers. God's creative power is not limited by your circumstances, resources, or past failures. When God speaks, creation responds.

**Reflection:** What area of your life needs God's creative power today? Declare over that situation: "With God, nothing is impossible."

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## **Day 2: Favored and Chosen**

**Reading:** Luke 1:26-38

**Devotional:** Before the angel announced the miracle to Mary, he declared, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Favor precedes the miracle. God's favor is not something you earn through performance or perfection—it's His gracious choice to work through you. Mary didn't campaign for this assignment; God simply chose her. You are favored not because of what you've done, but because of who God is. His favor follows you into every situation. When you woke up this morning, favor was with you. When challenges arise, favor surrounds you. God's favor makes you available for His creative work in your generation.

**Reflection:** List three ways God has shown His favor in your life. Thank Him for choosing you for His purposes.

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## **Day 3: Faith That Surrenders**

**Reading:** Luke 1:38, 45; Hebrews 11:1

**Devotional:** Mary's response to God's impossible promise reveals the heart of faith: "May your word to me be fulfilled." She didn't argue, negotiate, or delay. True faith surrenders to God's Word even when

circumstances seem impossible. Faith doesn't require you to understand everything; it requires you to trust the One who does. Mary faced social scandal, personal uncertainty, and biological impossibility, yet she believed God's Word. Your faith makes you available for God's creative work. It's not about your abilities but your availability. God doesn't look for perfect people; He looks for believing people who will carry His vision. When you surrender your will to His, ordinary becomes extraordinary.

**Reflection:** What has God promised you that requires surrendered faith? Pray: "Lord, may your word to me be fulfilled."

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#### **Day 4: Carrying the Promise**

**Reading:** Philippians 1:6; Isaiah 55:10-11

**Devotional:** God is both a promise maker and a promise keeper. When God begins a work, He doesn't leave it unfinished. Philippians 1:6 assures us that "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion." Like Mary, you may not create the miracle, but you carry it. You carry the vision, the purpose, the promise that God has spoken over your life. God's promises often exceed our expectations—they're bigger than one person and impact generations. What God has planted in you is not just for you; it's for your family, your community, your world. Trust that God watches over His Word to perform it.

**Reflection:** What promise from God are you carrying? How can you faithfully steward it today, even if you haven't seen the full manifestation?

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## **Day 5: God's Continuing Purpose**

**Reading:** Romans 8:28; Jeremiah 29:11

**Devotional:** God's creativity didn't stop in Genesis, His salvation didn't end at the cross, and His purpose for you continues today. The same God who created the world, sent a Savior, and established the church is still working in your life right now. Your past doesn't disqualify you; your present challenges don't limit Him. God has a purpose and a plan specifically designed for you. He's able to do exceedingly abundantly above all you can ask, think, or imagine. If our children are our future, their right now matters—and your right now matters too. God is doing something new, something that has never been done before, and He wants to do it through surrendered, believing vessels.

**Reflection:** Declare this week: "God still does what has never been done, and He can do it through me." What new thing is God creating in your life?

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**Weekly Challenge:** This week, identify one "impossible" area in your life and commit it to prayer daily, declaring God's creative power over it. Share your testimony of God's faithfulness with someone who needs encouragement.

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## **Small Group Guide: "God Still Does What Has Never Been Done"**

### **Opening Prayer**

Begin your time together by asking God to open hearts and minds to His creative power and purpose for each person's life.

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### **Sermon Overview**

This message explored the sixth principle of Kwanzaa—**Kuumba (Creativity)**—through the lens of Scripture, examining how God's creative power flows from Genesis through Luke to the present day. Pastor Canady emphasized that the same God who created the world, created a Savior through a virgin birth, and established the church is still creating new possibilities in our lives and communities today.

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### **Ice Breaker Question**

**Share a time when God did something in your life that seemed impossible or had never been done before in your family or circumstances.**

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### **Key Takeaways**

#### **1. God's Creative Power (Genesis 1:1; Luke 1:37)**

- God creates from nothing and brings life where life has never existed
- "For with God nothing is ever impossible, and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment"
- Creativity begins with God, not with human ability

## **2. God's Chosen Participants (Luke 1:38, 45)**

- God chooses to work through surrendered people
- Faith makes you available for God's creative work
- God doesn't look for perfect people; He looks for believing people
- Mary's response: "May it be done to me according to your word"

## **3. God's Continuing Purpose (Luke 1:45)**

- God is a promise keeper, not just a promise maker
- God's promises often extend beyond one person to impact generations
- What God starts, He finishes

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## **Discussion Questions**

### **Understanding God's Creative Power**

1. What stood out to you most about the progression from Genesis (creating the world) to Luke (creating the Savior) to Acts (creating the church)?
2. The sermon emphasized that "favor is the atmosphere where creativity happens." What does it mean to have God's favor, and how have you experienced it in your life?
3. Pastor Canady said, "Don't let what you see make you forget what I said." When have you been tempted to trust what you see more than what God has spoken? How did you overcome that?

## **Becoming God's Chosen Participants**

4. Mary's faith made her available for God's creative work. What's the difference between having ability and having availability? Which does God value more?
5. The message stated, "We don't create the miracle, but we carry the vision." How does this apply to your role in God's work at your church, job, or family?
6. What fears or uncertainties might keep someone from saying "yes" to God the way Mary did? What helps overcome those barriers?

## **Living Out God's Continuing Purpose**

7. The LIFE Male STEAM Academy was mentioned as an example of God doing something that had never been done. What "impossible" vision has God placed in your heart or in your community?
8. "If our children are our future, their right now matters." How does this statement challenge us to act differently today regarding the next generation?
9. The sermon emphasized that God's promises are bigger than one person. How does understanding this corporate dimension of God's promises change the way we pray and plan?

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## **Personal Reflection Questions**

*Take 3-5 minutes of silent reflection:*

- Is there an area of my life where I've stopped believing God can do something new?
- What would it look like for me to surrender more fully to God's creative purpose?

- Am I making myself available to God, or am I too busy with my own plans?
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## **Practical Applications**

### **This Week's Challenge: Choose One**

#### **Option 1: Faith Declaration**

- Write down one "impossible" situation you're facing
- Find three Scripture promises that speak to your situation
- Declare those promises over your life daily this week
- Share your testimony with the group next time

#### **Option 2: Availability Audit**

- Evaluate your calendar and commitments
- Identify one area where you can make yourself more available to God
- Take one concrete step to participate in God's work (volunteer, mentor, serve, give)

#### **Option 3: Legacy Investment**

- Identify one young person you can invest in this month
- Spend intentional time encouraging them about their God-given purpose
- Pray specifically for their future and God's creative work in their life

## **Option 4: Community Hope Builder**

- Research one specific need in your community
  - Pray about how God might use you or your group to address it
  - Take one practical step toward being part of the solution
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## **Group Prayer Focus**

Pray together for:

1. **Creative Faith:** That God would increase our faith to believe Him for the impossible
  2. **Surrendered Hearts:** That we would respond like Mary: "May it be done to me according to your word"
  3. **Community Impact:** For the LIFE Male STEAM Academy and other ministries creating hope in our community
  4. **Next Generation:** For young people to discover and walk in their God-given purpose
  5. **Personal Breakthroughs:** For specific "impossible" situations group members are facing
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## **Scripture Memory Verse**

**Luke 1:37 (Amplified)** "For with God nothing is ever impossible, and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment."

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## **Closing Thought**

God's creativity didn't stop in Genesis or Luke or Acts. The same God who created the world and created a Savior is still creating new possibilities in your life right now. The question is: Will you make yourself available? Will you believe His Word? Will you say "yes" to His impossible assignments?

**Remember: God still does what has never been done!**

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## **Before Next Week**

- Review the principles of Kwanzaa covered so far: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), and Kuumba (Creativity)
- Prepare to share one way you've grown through this series
- Bring a testimony of how God showed His creative power this week

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What does it mean to be available rather than merely able for God's work, and how can we cultivate greater availability in our daily lives?
2. The sermon connects ancient biblical creativity in Genesis and Luke to modern initiatives like LIFE Male STEAM Academy. How do you see God's creative power manifesting in your community today?
3. Mary's response was surrender and faith despite social scandal and personal uncertainty. What areas of your life require this same kind of surrendered faith in God's promises?

4. The pastor emphasizes that if our children are our future, their right now matters. How should this urgency shape the church's priorities and individual believers' actions today?
5. How does the principle of Kuumba, or creativity, challenge us to move beyond maintenance mode in our spiritual lives and become vessels for God's new work?
6. The sermon declares that God's promises are bigger than one person and extend to entire communities and generations. How does this corporate understanding of blessing differ from individualistic faith, and what implications does it have for how we pray and act?

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& ASK GOD  
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