

# Luke 1:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

## Analysis

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Mary's question 'How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?' demonstrates faith seeking understanding, not Zacharias-like doubt. The present tense 'know not' indicates her current virginity, while her question seeks explanation of method, not possibility. Mary doesn't question whether God can fulfill His word, but how He will accomplish it while preserving her virginity. This shows mature faith that accepts God's promise while seeking to understand His means. Her question invited instruction, not demanded proof, modeling the proper relationship between faith and understanding in Christian epistemology.

## Historical Context

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Mary's question reveals her understanding that she was still a virgin and that normal conception required marital relations. Unlike Zacharias who questioned based on natural impossibility, Mary sought understanding of the divine method, showing faith that God would preserve her integrity while fulfilling His promise.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. What is the difference between faith seeking understanding and doubt demanding proof?
2. How can we ask questions about God's promises without displaying unbelief?
3. Why is it appropriate to seek understanding of how God works while trusting that He will?

## Interlinear Text

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εἶπεν	δὲ	Μαριὰμ	πρὸς	τὸν	ἄγγελον	Πῶς	ἔσται	τοῦτο
<b>said</b>	<b>Then</b>	<b>Mary</b>	<b>unto</b>		<b>the angel</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>be</b>	<b>this</b>
G2036	G1161	G3137		G3588	G32	G4459	G2071	G5124

ἐπεὶ	ἄνδρα	οὐ	γινώσκω
<b>seeing</b>	<b>a man</b>	<b>not</b>	<b>I know</b>
G1893	G435	G3756	G1097

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