

December 23, 2012

**Experiencing The Things Of God As Wise Men  
Pastor Charles Mendenhall**

Psalms 111 - (Selected Verses From The Message Bible)

***1-10 Hallelujah!***

***I give thanks to God with everything I've got—  
Wherever good people gather, and in the congregation.  
God's works are so great, worth  
A lifetime of study—endless enjoyment!.....  
His generosity never gives out.  
His miracles are his memorial—.....  
He proved to his people that he could do what he said:  
Hand them the nations on a platter—a gift!  
He manufactures truth and justice;.....  
The good life begins in the fear of God—  
Do that and you'll know the blessing of God.  
His Hallelujah lasts forever!***

God is so good and during this season of the year and we need to be reminded that God gave His best to us. His Son Jesus! God gave heavens best because of love. He loves us.

Paul reminds us of Jesus words.

Acts 20: 35 ***"I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." KJV***

Learning to be more sensitive to God's love working through us, blesses others. How can we say that we have compassion if we shut up the love of God?

1 John 3:17 ***"But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" KJV***

There are certain things that cause God's love to be shut up in us, being critical, non-forgiving, and judgmental. It cripples us and won't allow God's love to flow out to one another.

It is amazing what God can do for us when we open up our heart to Him. We must however, show His love to others through our actions.

The things that were promised to Mary, the wise men, the shepherds and Joseph were almost an impossibility, but something on the inside of them believed God and put Him first place. They experienced God's goodness and the things thought to be unattainable were manifested to them

Luke 1:37-38 *"For with God nothing shall be impossible. 38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her."* KJV

Luke 1:37-38 *"37 For with God nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment. AMP*

Mary was told by the angel that she was highly favored and was to be blessed. This is the message that Mary heard and believed from the angel. The angel could tell her the complete plan that God had for her, he told her about the child that she was to have, however, it all depended on Mary not on God. She must believe, she was told about her cousin as an encouragement to her for the things that were coming upon her.

We are favored and loved by God today, regardless of what our past may have been. The very word that God gives to us has the same power and ability to bring it to pass that it had to Mary, but we have to believe. Mary said "according to God's Word", our response must be the same.

Luke 1:45 *"And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord."* KJV

Mary began to worship and praise God. The things spoken of to Mary involved a progression of time, but in order to keep her believing and faith in tact, she immediately went to see her cousin who was pregnant, because she did not want anyone speaking doubt to her.

When we begin to dispel fear and doubt from our minds and can believe what has been told to us, there will be a performance of those things which the spirit of God has spoken. Blessed we are when we believe. Most of us do well when challenges come, but we must not back off from what God has promised. Many times we are waiting for the instantaneous miracles to come, however, a progression of time is usually what will bring the miracles to us.

Ezek 12:25 *"For I am the Lord: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say the word,*

*and will perform it, saith the Lord God."* KJV

Example given of a woman in Australia regarding a challenge that came to her while she was pregnant. It was a miracle and is documented in the medical journals there. After having an ultrasound, it showed that the baby had no brain. She went to a group of women who knew how to intercede and pray. After prayer, she returned to the doctors, who wanted her to abort the baby, but she refused their report, each time that she returned to the doctors, the ultrasound would show that the brain was growing. When she delivered the baby, the brain was totally developed. It was over a season of time.

The wise men went looking for the "king" that the stars showed to have been born. They found him in his home not in a manger. Herod had put out a decree to kill all babies two years and under. The wise men came from the east, their journey took them at least two years to complete. Scholars are not sure which country they came from. The wise men are shown to be three in number because of the amount of gifts that they brought, but it is thought that their group was much larger. The wise men were committed to the cause, they followed the star to the destination.

We are on a journey to receive what God has promised us, we cannot lose sight of the promise that the spirit of God has given to us. Wise men will continue to follow what God has promised. It is supernatural.

John 1:17 *"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."* KJV

To inherit and enjoy all that comes from grace, faith is still involved. It is not by works, but is by believing. Mary was blessed; there was a performance for what God had promised. The wise men pursued righteousness when they came to Herod they knew that something was wrong, after seeing Jesus they went a different direction knowing that Herod was not righteous in his request of them. The star stood over the home where Jesus was, they worshiped Him, they bowed their knee and then they gave gifts. Wise men still continue today to follow after Him.

Mary and Joseph had to believe God, not to look at circumstances. Mary questioned the angel regarding how it was possible, Many times we are like she was, we question the promise because of how and what we have been in our past lives. Circumstances may look impossible but God does not see them that way. He is looking for someone who will believe. Joseph had his questions regarding what had been said, but after the angel spoke to him, he believed and took her for his wife. They disregarded the criticism that they received.

We will also receive criticism when we are doing what the Lord has told us to do, regardless we must keep our eyes on the promise and stay focused on Jesus.

The angel spoke to all, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men and all saw and believed. God speaks to us where we are and what we understand. Wise men have expectations. We are highly favored by God. Our ability is in Jesus, the word has the power to bring to pass what He promises. If we are wise we will stay focused, continue to be committed, worship and seek Him.

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