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How Mary Received The Christmas Miracle

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This season of the year brings about such a busy time in all our lives that it causes most people to miss out on the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

Have you ever considered the inn keeper at the time of Jesus birth? The inn keeper was so busy with the day to day business of taking care of his customers, that it caused him to miss out on the most important event that would ever happen, the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ in his stable. In contrast, the shepherds who were in the field tending their flocks, witnessed the event, after an angel appeared to them telling them what was happening, they heard the news and responded to it. The wise men witnessed the star proclaiming something important was happening, they took the time to make the journey and later were able to bring gifts to our Lord Jesus Christ.

As believers we must be careful not to let the importance of Jesus' birth pass us by, because of all that is going on around us, not focusing on the real reason for the season, but caught up in all the festivities.

Why did Jesus come? God's plan and purpose for Jesus to come, was to set us free, to destroy the works of the enemy. He did not come to condemn the world, but to save the world.

The following scripture show us what God's plan and purpose was in sending Jesus and what man's responsibility in responding to what God has promised. As believers there is obedience, contrasted with outward circumstances that we must learn to follow. Joseph was obedient to what God showed him. We must be obedient to what God's plan for us is.

1 John 3:8 "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" KJV

There is a challenge involved with pastoring a congregation in order to be able to plant the incorruptible seed of the Word of God into peoples' lives where they will begin to understand and act upon it and hear with the purpose to act upon it. God's wants all to know that they are favored and there is nothing that they can do to gain favor, because of what Jesus has done. God is for us regardless of what we have experienced in the past. As believers we cannot allow fear to enter into our lives, fear must be displaced with faith. Fear will keep us from realizing that we are favored by God.

When the angel came to Mary telling her how she was a favored woman, she was a blessed woman. She listened to his first words to her, she had questions but as she heard the words, fear

was displaced in her. He began to tell her part of God's plan for her life and what would happen, telling her that she would have a son and his name would be Jesus. She must plant the word from God in her heart in order for it to be manifest. He gave her a word of encouragement telling her about her cousin Elizabeth and that she was pregnant.

Luke 1:27-38 "To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. 29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. 36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. 37 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 "37 For with God nothing is ever impossible *and* no word from God shall be without power *or* impossible of fulfillment" AMP

Every word that comes from God has power in it to reproduce, for that word from God planted in the soil of our heart; we must be saying and meditating on it in order for it to come to pass.

An example was given of a kernel of corn being able to reproduce with the power that is locked up within it, after its own kind.

Joseph's response to the situation was different, but after receiving a word from the angel, he was able to accept the fact that she was with child, but that it was God's plan for her.

Matt 1:18-25 "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. 20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. 24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: 25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus." KJV

Mary immediately went to another person who was experiencing what she was. She didn't hang around people who might begin to implant negative thoughts into her.

Luke 1:40-45 "And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth. 41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: 42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. 43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 And

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

As believers we must change from the negative responses to the positive in our lives. We cannot allow others to voice the negative, causing us to lose our faith and allow fear to enter in. We should find people of like faith.

Proverbs 13 and 14 also teach us the importance of those we should come into contact with and the company we keep.

1 Cor 15:33 "Do not be so deceived *and* misled! Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt *and* deprave good manners *and* morals *and* character." AMP

It is important to have an atmosphere of constant renewal in our lives.

2 Cor 4:16 "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." KJV

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

Elizabeth began to prophecy about the thing that had been promised by God to Mary. Had Mary not believed the angel, he would have found another.

For the word of God to become alive, conception takes place at the moment that we believe, there is a time frame for the actual manifestation to see the results.

Luke 5:4-5 "Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. 5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net." KJV

Peter responded to the spoken word from Jesus (nevertheless), as did Mary from the word given by the angel (be it according to thy word). God's Word is alive and powerful and has the life in it that we all need.

Heb 4:12 "For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing *and* sifting *and* analyzing *and* judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart." AMP

Fear and complaining work together. Complaining causes us to remain the same, as we begin to praise we are raised. Mary began to worship and praise the Lord

Luke 1:46 "And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord," KJV

This is God's will for us to be happy and rejoice. Our response should be to magnify the Lord and give Him thanksgiving. We either receive or reject His will. His promise will come to pass.

1 Thess 5:16-18 "Rejoice evermore. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." KJV

1 Thess 5:16-18 "Be happy [in your faith] *and* rejoice *and* be glad-hearted continually (always); 17 Be unceasing in prayer [praying perseveringly]; 18 Thank [God] in everything [no matter what the circumstances may be, be thankful and give thanks], for this is the will of God for you [who are] in Christ Jesus [the Revealer and Mediator of that will]." AMP

"Be it unto me, just like You said, according to Your word." I believe and now receive Your word, we declare that strongholds are broken, In Jesus name, based on what Jesus came to do, to breakdown and loosen what the adversary was trying to do to the people of God. Thank you that these works are destroyed.