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## Receiving What God Has Promised

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The angel has come to Mary and told her what God has planned for her. The following scriptures show her response and how God would be able to bring to pass what had been promised. Joseph had also been spoken to and they both had to accept what had been said to them. The circumstances that surrounded Joseph were almost overwhelming for him because of the laws for the Jewish people, but he was willing to do what God had told him. Mary and Joseph were common ordinary people. Mary had faith and had the ability to hear what God had said and she had corresponding actions. When believers really believe they will have corresponding actions.

During the time that the angel had spoken to Mary, she found out that her cousin Elizabeth was in her sixth month of pregnancy. The angel Gabriel had spoken earlier to Elizabeth and told her that she was going to have a child even though she was past the childbearing age, he would later be identified as John the Baptist.

\*1 Cor 14: 10 "There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification."

The outside voices that may be heard or the unworthy feeling that sometimes believers have, are not true, because of the grace that God has bestowed on us, we hear the voice of God and seek to inherit what has been said. What is the difference between hearing the voice of God and what comes to pass? Hearing the voice of God depends on faith on our part, when we have a word from God, we now have the potential for the promise to come to pass. It will depend on how we respond to the voice of God. Our part is to learn how to hear the voice of God when He speaks to us. Be aware and listening for that voice all the time and when we get a word from the Lord, have corresponding actions to let that word be manifested to us. The outcome depends entirely on faith, for it is impossible to please God without faith. The purpose of this message is to equip the believer to receive what we have heard from God. \*No word from God is without power. The word that God gives us has the

power to bring it to pass, we must believe that word.

Heb 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." KJV

We are in Jesus and He has given us our righteousness we should not have any sense of unworthiness, we can go into His presence without feeling guilty about anything. Is it Gods plan that we take Him everywhere we are go? We should become more aware of His presence. \*Don't get so busy with the things going on around you that you are unable to hear what the Lord is saying to you. You must hear His voice in order for you to walk by faith.

We are all highly favoured, not only was Mary favoured but all believers are able to realize that because of Jesus and what He did, we have that same favour that was spoken of in the scripture. The angel continued to encourage Mary in regards to all that he had told her.

Luke 1:28-46 "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. 39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; 40 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. 46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord," KJV

v. 31 Mary shall conceive, bear a son who will be called Jesus

v. 34 Mary's question was how can this happen, since I have never known a man?

v. 35 Angel's answer was the Holy Ghost would come upon her, that it would be holy, supernatural

v. 36 Mary received word that Elizabeth was 6 months pregnant

\*\*v. 37 "For with God nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment." AMP     \*The word has the power to bring it to pass.

v. 38 Mary accepted the words that the angel spoke to her and was willing to be what the Lord wanted her to do

v. 39 Where did Mary go after receiving the word? She shared with Elizabeth the good news at which time the baby in Elizabeth leaped when hearing the news. Mary chose to get away from those who would not understand what had happened.

v. 42 Elizabeth began to prophesy about the birth

v. 44 Elizabeth's baby leaped in her womb

\*\*\*v. 45 Mary was able to believe what had been said to her, she made that decision to believe

v. 46 Mary began to praise the Lord for what she had heard from the angel

\*\*\* Luke 1:45 "And blessed (happy, to be envied) is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of the things that were spoken to her from the Lord." AMP

When we are believing God for something important, having received a word from Him regarding the end result, it is necessary for the believer to disassociate themselves from non-believers who might cause them to doubt what they had heard the Lord say because of their unbelief. We cannot continue to listen or be swayed by them, they will drain faith out of you.

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

Here again we learn the importance of hanging around with like believers, not having wrong associates that can cause some believers to begin to think and act like they do.

Pro 15:33 "The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility." KJV

Pro 14:7 "Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of

knowledge." KJV

Pro 13:20 "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." KJV

The above scriptures all tell us that the challenge we encounter is usually the result of pride in our lives. The important point in these scriptures is that we learn to hang around with like believers. Walking and talking about the faith growing and maturing in the word should be the kind of associates that is in our lives, getting godly counseling would be to our advantage.

Rom 4:16 "Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all," KJV

This is the faith that Abraham had and the same faith that Mary exhibited when she heard the news about Jesus' birth, she was to be highly favored by all people. Mary chose to receive, believe and act on what the angel had told her, she put her faith into action. The entire 5th chapter of Psalms shows the favour all around Abraham.

When reading the rest of the Christmas story in Luke 2, we find that Mary, Joseph and the shepherds did not complain and murmur about where the birth of Jesus had taken place, but their main thought was that the baby Jesus had been born and they were able to view His presence.

John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." KJV

Jesus' main mission when He came to earth was not to condemn as so many people believe, but He was the hope of the world and came to save, He is the hope of Christmas - let Him be your HOPE!!!