

Pregnant with Purpose

08 - Living the Simple Gospel: Philippians
Church on the Park I Sunday, 05 FEB 2017

Text: “And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord” - Luke 1:45

Theme: Don't let years of barrenness rob you from believing that God will fulfill his Word.

Intro: The verse above is what has been speaking to me lately and it's in line with what God has been putting on my heart for 2017 & beyond. Here is Mary & Elizabeth's meeting with each, two relatives, both pregnant, both about to give birth to the fulfillment of God's Word. Elizabeth prophetically affirms Mary that she is blessed because she believed that God would fulfill his Word spoken to her. You see, not all have that response. Elizabeth's husband heard the Word, but did not believe. Consequently, he could not speak. When you don't believe, you can't speak God's Word. It takes faith to speak God's Word. Mary has that faith. That's always the beginning of God doing great things through you. Consequently, she is overflowing with prophecy.

1) **Mary and Elizabeth's encounter with one another is an example of true fellowship (Luke 1:39-56).**

- This is what happens when two believers **pregnant with God's will** gather together.
- The **church** should be a **continual repetition** of Mary & Elizabeth's **encounter**.
 - In other words, **our fellowship** should be **like their fellowship**.
- *How did all this happen?*
- First, “Mary **arose** and went”
 - **God's Word** will always cause you to **arise**.
 - It will cause you to **arise** and **gather** with other **like-hearted people**, people who are **pregnant with God's purpose**.
 - “Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, **with those** who call on the Lord from a **pure heart**” (2 Tim. 2:22).
 - Mary's encounter with the angel and the Holy Spirit happened in the **secret place**, but then that **led** her to her “**sister in the Lord**” (**relative**).
 - A healthy church meets with God in the **secret place** and meets with **one another** after encountering God.
 - While away God spoke to me saying, “All the leaders in the church and school are **arising**—they are **arising** to **fulfill** my great commission, they are **arising** as lovers who have laid down their lives. Rejoice! For finally my people are **arising**... Tell them to not do **too much**, but to **pace themselves**. As long as they are moving forward, they will not miss me. Teach them that it all begins and ends in prayer—without prayer there is no ministry. Ministry in the kingdom is supernatural—beyond natural ability—impossible through your own strength and emotional reserves. It takes the miraculous to serve...”
- Second, Elizabeth and Mary's encounter was **filled with joy** and the **Holy Spirit**.
 - Why?
 - Because Mary was **carrying Jesus** and Jesus brings **joy** and the **Holy Spirit** wherever he is received.
 - You also **carry Jesus**.
 - “When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the **baby leaped** in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit”

- I'm reminded of the great joy **Malua** had when coming into the **Bible School on Monday night**.
- Third, Elizabeth and Mary both **prophecy to one another, encouraging** one another with the Word of the Lord.
 - **True fellowship** means **joy**, the **Holy Spirit** and **prophecy**.

2) Believe that the Lord will fulfill his Word to you (Luke 1:45)

- Mary **believed** God's Word.
- Some people **hear** God's Word, but because there is **no faith**, there is **no room** for the **seed** to take **root**.
- Look at **Mary's encounter with Gabriel** (Luke 1:26-38).
 - **Your response** to God's Word should be the same.
 - **Don't say**, "This is **impossible**. This can never happen through me."
 - God wants to **fulfill** his **Word through you**. He's not looking for Jesus to **pop up out of thin air**, but to be **birthed** through Mary.
 - In the same way, **God's Word** needs to **come** through you.
 - "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to **the power that works within us...**"(Eph. 3:20).
- **God's Word** is like a **seed** and it only is effective on **soft hearts**.
 - **Receive** God's Word with **meekness**
 - "Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in **humility receive** the word **implanted**, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21).
- Luke is specifically **contrasting Mary** with **Zacharias** (Luke 1:5-25).
 - **Zacharias** the **professional and old** minister does not believe, but Mary the **poor and young** vessel listens.
 - Zacharias was **righteous**, but all those **years of barrenness** affected his **faith**.
 - "And behold, you shall be **silent** and unable to speak...because **you did not believe** my words, which will be **fulfilled** in their **proper time**" (Luke 1:20).
 - When God chooses to bring **revival**, he always **bypasses** the '**wise**' and '**professional**.'
 - The Father chooses the **humble, poor and hungry**. He chooses the **manger** not the **mansion**.
 - Hear **Mary's prophetic word: Luke 1:46-56**

3) Be patience. It takes time for God's Word and promises to grow in and through you (Luke 3:23).

- Think about Mary. She had a **miraculous conception**—something that never happened before.
 - But it would take at least **nine months** for **Jesus** to be **born**.
- Jesus' **birth** was followed by **one miracle after another**.
- Yet, after the birth, everything went **quiet**.
 - For **30 years** everything went quiet, except for Jesus in the temple as a boy.
- **Fulfillment takes time**. But be sure, the time will come. Be faithful.
- While it takes time for God's Word to be fulfilled, I believe **this is a year** when God will **fulfill** many things he has spoken.
- The word **fulfill** gives you a **picture** of what the word means.
 - It's like Jesus **filling up the cup** of **God's will** until it is **full**.
- The Father's Word progresses **one level upon another level**, one **layer** on another **layer**, until it reaches the **top**, the **fulness**.

- Let's again be reminded of Philippians: "For I am **confident** of this very thing, that he who **began a good work** in you will **perfect** it until **the day of Christ Jesus.**"
- It's the day of Christ Jesus, his **second coming** to reign, when **every Word** will be **fulfilled.**

Conclusion: Mary & Elizabeth are an example of true fellowship. They prophetically encouraged one another while they were pregnant with God's promises. In the same way, believe that God will fulfill his Word and be patient as his Word is forming in and through you.