



## **SERIES: MY LIFE WITH GOD**

### **Giving Birth to a Miracle**

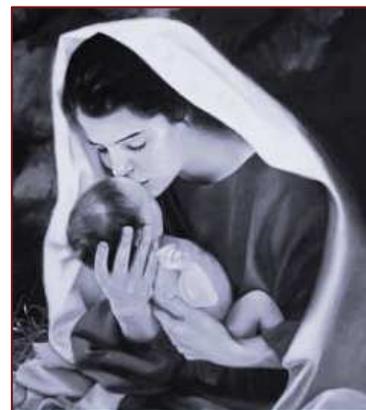
#### **Life Reference: Luke 1:28-45**

##### **Focus Verse:**

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

Imagine an angel informing you that you were going to have a baby. Some would shout for joy, others would scream in despair. (Let's face it, there's not too many who would want to have a child after 45.) The situation of Mary, the mother of Jesus, was even more jolting.

To fully understand Mary's predicament, we need to consider the times in which she lived. Having a baby out of wedlock today can be difficult, but it is not as earthshaking as it was in Mary's time. Moral codes were to be kept, not broken, and there was a price to be paid if they were violated. Not only that, she was engaged. No wonder an angel had to appear to Joseph. Mary's story was understandably unbelievable. We don't know what Mary said to him, but could you imagine trying to explain that you, as a virgin, were miraculously carrying a baby? That this baby was the Son of God? What would your family and neighbors say?



So what did it take for Mary to give birth to a miracle? Let's look at Scripture.



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**Requirement 1: Preparation**  
**"Thou ... art highly favoured." (Luke 1:28).**

The angel greeted Mary with these words. God chose a vessel that was prepared to receive a miracle. She wasn't perfect, but she was living a life that was emptied of sin, or God would not have chosen her.

So many times we fill our lives with things that are not necessarily sin in and of themselves, but they become sin as they take the place of our commitment to God. We need to do as Hebrews 12:1 says and lay aside the weights and sins that easily beset us, and prepare our vessels to receive a miracle.

**Life Reflection:**

Are there things in your life that are hindering you from being fully committed to God's plan for your life?

What steps do you feel you must take to prepare yourself for greater service to God?

**Requirement 2: Trust**  
**"How shall this be...?" (Luke 1:34).**

Unlike her cousin Elisabeth's circumstance, there was no precedent for Mary. Elisabeth and Zacharias were old and childless, just like Abraham and Sarah. God miraculously blessed them with a son who would be known as John the Baptist. However, there was no virgin birth before or after that of Mary. Yet after Mary's initial question to the angel, she never asked one again. Gabriel told her about her cousin's pregnancy and said, "For with God, nothing shall be impossible." Mary simply trusted that if God could give the elderly Elisabeth a baby, He could do what He said He would do in her.



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## Life Reflection:

What is your level of trust? How do you feel you would react if visited by an angel with a message from the Lord? Would you believe the message?

What if it were an inner prompting by the Spirit rather than an angelic visitation? Would you trust that feeling as being from God?

So many times it is easier for us to rely on our own understanding than to believe in the supernatural power of God. Yet God said that He can do "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

Just like Mary, we need to trust Him to work in us His miracle.

### **Requirement 3: Obedience**

**"Be it unto me according to thy word" (Luke 1:38).**

Mary's trust led to obedience. It was an *immediate, positive* response.

How many times does God have to ask before we say yes? If we really trust someone, we will believe what he says and act accordingly, no questions asked. It is because we have confidence in that person based on our past relationship. Trust may mean responding positively without completely understanding why the request was made. We are able to do this because we have confidence in the person's character. The same is true with the Lord. We may not always understand why, but we know Who—and that's enough.



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## Life Reflection:

Can you think of a time that you did not immediately obey when God asked you to do something for Him? Why did you delay in obeying?

Was there a time when you immediately responded with a yes? Describe the difference in how you felt between taking action at once and delaying in following God's will.

## Life Response:

### Requirement 4: Reception

**"And blessed is she that believed..." (Luke 1:45).**

Mary was receptive of the work of the Lord. Verse 45 goes on to say, "for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord."

There was a waiting period before the miracle was complete. Who knows what trials Mary faced in the interim. Even after the birth, Jesus would be to some just "the carpenter's son." But Mary knew better.

## Life Reflection:

Has God ever given you a promise, but you seemed to wait and wait for it to come to pass? Did you respond with trust that it would happen according to His timing? Or did your faith waiver?

Part of being receptive of a miracle is holding on to it. Just like Mary, we know what God has promised. Others may try to discredit our miracle by saying it was just a



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coincidence or luck. Maybe only a few family members or we will ever know the full extent of our miracle, but that doesn't make it any less of one.

Giving birth to a miracle is just the beginning. Just as Jesus grew up to perform many miracles, our miracle can give birth to other miracles as well.

## **My Prayer:**

Lord, thank you for the times that You have brought miracles into my life. Prepare my heart so that I am quick to obey Your promptings in the Spirit. May I always trust You completely, even if I do not understand the reason for what You ask. I know that I can trust You with my life because all that You desire for me is good.

## **More Life with God References:**

Psalm 24:3-5  
Psalm 37:5  
Psalm 62:5  
Psalm 112:1  
Isaiah 1:19  
Isaiah 40:13

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