



Berean Christian Fellowship

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Believe the Word of the Lord

“Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.” (Luke 1:45).

When we hear the word of the Lord, do we believe? Do we hold fast the promises God has given us? After Mary committed herself to God’s will, she could have become afraid about the possible suffering that lay before an unwed, pregnant woman in Nazareth.

But clearly the promises of God were nearer her heart, just as He had said to Israel, *“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand”* (Isaiah 41:10). Mary believed God would fulfill His Word. His promises must have encouraged her to face the trials ahead—what trials they would be! She was the bearer of the savior of the world, yet treated as a wicked woman by “righteous” people—what a miscarriage of justice! Little did she know that God’s Son inside her would bear this same injustice in a way she could not imagine. Though He had no sin in Himself, Jesus would die wrongly accused of being a sinner, criminal, and blasphemer—all to save the “righteous” from their sins. Before His death and resurrection, Jesus warned His disciples that obeying God’s Word would mean distress at the hands of people believing they did God a service (John 16:2).

Mary obeyed God, calling herself the “bondslave” of the Lord (Luke 1:38), emptying herself (her ambition, desires, will) all her life for God’s will, even if it meant distress or death. She did not yet know that in doing so, she was imitating God’s Son inside her who *“emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.*

Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross”

(Philippians 2:6-8); *“therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us”* (Ephesians 5:1-2a). Yet, in this walk, we often need support, and God knows this. He has provided the Body of Believers to encourage and support one another in His Church (1 Corinthians 12). Mary needed encouragement, but no one around her yet believed God’s Word. She left her family and friends in a hurry to visit her cousin Elizabeth—the only other person she knew who was encountering the power of God in their life. She probably went hoping to find a fellow “bondslave” of God—a Believer of His Word. Was Mary uneasy? If she told Elizabeth about the Word she had received from God, would Elizabeth believe or would she doubt?

As soon as Mary said hello, Elizabeth cried by the Holy Spirit, *“how has it happened to me that the mother of my Lord would come to me?”* (Luke 1:43) What support for Mary! She had found the encouragement she needed in the fellowship of a Believer. Perhaps in this little miracle, she recalled God’s promise to Israel: *“The Lord is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed”* (Deuteronomy 31:8). God had gone ahead of Mary and prepared His way. Mary cried, *“My spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior...The Mighty One has done great things for me”* (Luke 1:47,49).

May we, like Mary, believe that there will be a fulfillment of the Word of God that He has given us. Let us hold fast the promises of God, none more than our salvation in Jesus Christ and His imminent return to remove us from a world destined for God’s wrath. Amen.

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