



## **DON'T BE AFRAID: GOD DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE**

**Luke 1:26-38**

- ***What's some of the best news that you've ever received?***
- *"Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name Him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. . . . His Kingdom will never end!" Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."* (Luke 1:30-34)
- **Although the message Mary received from the angel Gabriel was great news for humankind, it created a extremely difficult and seemingly impossible situation for her because of the emotional, physical, relational and societal challenges she would have to deal with if the angel's message was true.**
- ***What kind of seemingly impossible situations have I or others had to deal with?***
- **Life is filled with all kinds of seemingly impossible emotional, financial, physical, relational and vocational challenges that we feel ill equipped to deal with - and in those times and situations we need to turn to and trust in the Lord.**
- The Angel - *"For nothing will be impossible with God."* (Luke 1:37 ESV)
- ***What steps can we take to position ourselves to experience the seemingly impossible work of God in our lives, circumstances and relationships?***

**To Experience The "Impossible" We Must:**

### **MAKE GODLY DECISIONS**

- **Our decisions determine what we do and how we live, and determine whether or not we live godly or ungodly lives.**
- *"God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David."* (Luke 1:26-27)
- **One reason God chose Mary to give birth to the Savior was because she had demonstrated that she was committed to living a godly life; and He still blesses those who live godly lives.**
- *"The Lord directs the steps of the godly . . ."* (Psalm 37:23)

- *“The Lord rescues the godly; He is their fortress in times of trouble.”* (Psalm 37:39)
- *“Light shines on the godly, and joy on those whose hearts are right.”* (Psalm 97:11)
- *“Wicked people are detestable to the Lord, but He offers His friendship to the godly.”* (Proverbs 3:32)
- *“The fears of the wicked will be fulfilled; the hopes of the godly will be granted.”* (Proverbs 10:24)
- **One of the best choices we can make during the holiday season is to live godly lives even when others around us are involved in ungodly activities.**
- *“Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.”* (Psalm 1:1-3)
- **What are some ungodly activities or attitudes that we need to stay away from?**
- **We will live godlier lives when we: 1) Read the Bible and Pray daily, 2) Make sure the Music we listen or Media we view portrays good themes (Philippians 4:8), 3) Engage in ongoing relationships with godly people (Proverbs 27:17), and 4) Attend Church services on a regular basis (Hebrews 10:24-25).**
- *“Nothing grows a Christian like a serious commitment to a single church week in and week out for years and years. Not conferences. Not social media. Not even personal devotions. The local church is where mature Christians are slowly forged in the fires of mundane faithfulness.”* - Michael Foster
- *“By His divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life.”* (2 Peter 1:3)
- **What steps do I need to take to live a godlier life in the days ahead?**

### **To Experience The “Impossible” We Must:**

#### **BELIEVE GOD’S WORD**

- **The Lord speaks to His people through: 1) the Bible (Psalm 119:104-105), 2) His Spirit (Acts 13:2), 3) Mature Christians (1 Kings 17:24), 4) Circumstances (Revelation 3:7), 5) Dreams and Visions (Joel 2:28), and 6) Angels (Hebrews 1:14).**
- *“Don’t be afraid, Mary,’ the angel told her, ‘for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name Him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David. And He will reign over Israel forever; His Kingdom will never end!”* (Luke 1:30-33)
- **What questions would you have had for that Angel if you had been Mary?**
- **It may be wrong to question what God does, but it’s not wrong to question how He does what He does.**
- *“Mary asked the angel, ‘But how can this happen? I am a virgin.’ The angel replied, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and He will be called the Son of God.”* (Luke 1:34-35)
- **The Messiah had to be born of a virgin because humankind’s Savior had to be sinless to be the perfect “sacrifice” for our sins (2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 3:18), and 3) the Scriptures had predicted He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14).**

- The Angel - *"The word of God will never fail."* (Luke 1:37 NLT)
- **God's Word says that the Lord will: 1) Forgive our sins (1 John 1:9), 2) Change our lives (Titus 3:3-7), 3) Provide for our needs (Philippians 4:19), 4) Give us Direction (Proverbs 3:5-6) and 5) Enable us to live Victorious Lives (Romans 8:37) if we will truly believe and apply His Word to our lives.**
- Elizabeth to Mary - *"You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what He said."* (Luke 1:45)
- **If we are not living vibrant and victorious lives it's because we're doubting God's Word rather than believing God's Word.**
- ***What steps do I need to take to better learn and start living by God's Word?***

***To Experience The "Impossible" We Must:***

**DETERMINE TO FULFILL GOD'S PLANS**

- *"Mary responded, 'I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true.'" (Luke 1:38)*
- **It is one thing to say we believe God's Word, but the real test is whether or not we are willing to live out God's will in our lives.**
- *"Don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves."* (James 1:22)
- **It certainly wasn't going to be easy for Mary to say "Yes" to the Lord, and it's not going to be easy for us to always say "Yes" to the Lord; but we will never experience God's best for our lives until we come to the point where we want His will in our lives more than anything else.**
- *"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."* (Romans 12:2)
- **God's job is to reveal His will and our job is to do His will.**
- *"Real success is finding and getting in God's will for one's life."* (George Truett)
- Jesus - *"Anyone who does God's will is My brother and sister and mother."* (Mark 3:35)
- *"Mary responded, 'Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! For He took notice of His lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One is holy, and He has done great things for me.'" (Luke 1:46-49)*
- **The Lord accomplishes His greatest works in, for and through the lives of common and humble people like Mary (1 Corinthians 1:26-28).**
- *"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. ... Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up in honor."* (James 4:6, 10)
- ***What seemingly impossible situations or relationships am I facing, and what steps do I need to take to allow God to do His miraculous work in and through my life?***