

The Faith of Mary

(May We All Be So Humble)

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Found Favor with God

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.” (Matthew 1:18-19 NKJV)

As most of us all know, Mary conceived the Christ child miraculously within her womb. For an angel came to her and said: *“Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 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: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”* (Luke 1:30-33 KJV) Now, we know that this proclamation caused a bit of confusion for Mary, for she said: *“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”* (Luke 1:34 NIV) Then the angle said to her: *“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; for that reason also the holy Child will be called the Son of God.”* (Luke 1:35 NASB20)

Now of course, this didn’t go over very well with Joseph whom she was espoused to. I say this because from what we first read above; she was look down upon (at least by Joseph) as being an unfaithful wife. But Joseph as an act of kindness, was considering divorcing her privately. I say as an act of kindness because during that time she could have been stoned to death for adultery. However, the angel said to Joseph in a dream: *“Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.”* (Matthew 1:20 KJV) So, the angel had to convince Joseph that she wasn’t unfaithful to him. So: *“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”* (James 1:19-20 KJV). Amen.



Zachariah's Encounter with the Angel

“Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. (Luke 1:13 NASB20)

So, from what we already read above, Mary didn't doubt the words that were spoken to her by the angel Gabriel. For we read that she said: *“Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.”* (Luke 1:38) However, this was not the case with the priest Zacharias. For after having an encounter with the same angel, he doubted the angel's announcement that his wife would also conceive in her old age. For he said to the angel Gabriel: *“Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure of this? For I am an old man, and my wife is old as well”.”* (Luke 1:18 NET) And what was the angels response: *“And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time”.”* (Luke 1:19-20 ESV)

So, because of his doubt, he could not speak until his son John was born. So, if an angel of God is sent to you with a message, it's best that you believe him as Mary did. Amen.

Mary's Visit with Elisabeth

“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. For with God nothing shall be impossible.” (Luke 1:34-37 KJV)

Now, after the angel told Mary that her cousin Elisabeth is in her sixth month of pregnancy, she left to visit her. *“In those days Mary got up and went hurriedly into the hill country, to a town of Judah, and entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She exclaimed with a loud voice, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child in your womb! And who am I that the mother of my Lord should come and visit me? For the instant the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that what was spoken to her by the Lord would be fulfilled.”* (Luke 1:39-45 NET)

So, we read that Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and therefore knew that Mary was pregnant. Again, we see Mary being applauded by Elizabeth for believing the word of God. *“And Mary said: ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich*

He has sent away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.” (Luke 1:46-55 NKJV)

In Closing

How blessed are those women who preach the word of God as Mary and Elizabeth did above! For this is not going against the scripture. For there is nowhere in the Bible that forbids a woman from preaching God's word. For we only see in scripture that women cannot taking on a leadership position in the church. Also, she is not to take a leadership position over her husband at home. But again, this wouldn't restrict her from sharing the word of God outside of the church. So, let's encourage every man, woman and child in Christ to preach the Word of God with all boldness.

Women can be Prophets and Judges and even preach God's word to those who need to be saved. However, this doesn't give them permission to be a Priest, Elders or Bishops:

- “Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time. And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.” (Judges 4:4-5 NKJV)
- “Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.” (Acts 18:24-26 ESV)
- “Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles; also greet the church that is in their house. Greet Epaenetus, my beloved, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia.” (Romans 16:3-5 NASB95)

Women can take on the role of a Deacon (Deaconess) as Phoebe was. This position is not to be viewed as one who is a leader in a church:

- I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deaconess of the church at Cen'chre-ae, that you may receive her in the Lord as befits the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a helper of many and of myself as well. (Romans 16:1-2 RSV)

Women are not permitted to be Teachers or be Leaders in the Church which would be an assembly of Christians:

- “Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.” (1 Corinthians 14:34-35 NKJV)
- “Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.” (1 Timothy 2:11-14 ESV)

Below are the different bible versions that were used in this article. This I included to help assist you in your study of God's word.

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