

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

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MARY AND JOSEPH: GOD CONFIRMS HIS WORD

Over and over again we see countless examples of how God confirms his word and his guidance to individuals – in the Bible and I hope for some or many of us, in our own life experiences. I've written on this before about my own life, but here let's focus on the early days of Jesus' family.

Let's look back at the beginning. Mary had the dramatic visit of the angel Gabriel telling her what would happen and that the baby would be called Jesus. Imagine the reaction of residents in Nazareth over the succeeding months when it became obvious this young virgin was pregnant. Imagine even the reaction of her own parents and of her fiancé Joseph. But at some point in all this, Joseph himself has an encounter with an angel in a dream and is told about Mary's baby and that the baby is to be called Jesus. Imagine the extraordinary relief and encouragement and joy to Mary when he relays this to her.

Somewhat similarly, shortly after her encounter with Gabriel, Mary goes to visit her older cousin Elizabeth. Imagine the joy and realization of the magnitude of all that is happening when upon her approaching Elizabeth her cousin blurts out a confirming prophetic word, calling Mary the mother of her Lord and thereby confirming Gabriel's word.

Now think for a moment. Joseph and Mary did not have the account of Jesus in the Bible available to read. None of it had happened. All this was new. With that in mind consider what must have been the reaction of Joseph and Mary 40 days after Jesus was born in the event described here in Luke 2:22-35:

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

On the very same day there was another dramatic confirming moment in Luke 2:36-38:

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.^[e] She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Forty days after the Lord's birth, God again right in front of their faces gives them more unmistakable proof of the importance of the baby they have been entrusted with. Of course, already they must have been astounded by the response of the shepherds to Jesus' birth. And then sometime in the early period after his birth to see the amazing arrival of wise men from far away bearing precious gifts.

Time and again God built up Joseph and Mary's understanding and their faith to prepare them for what lay ahead. Still we all wonder what was it like for them having Jesus grow up in their home, having him around to speak with, watching his response to things. How did he react to normal life? We really don't know, although there was that time when he was twelve that he got into a discussion with religious leaders in the temple and amazed them. Mary and Joseph did not know where he was and searched for three days before finding him in the temple. They made the point they had been concerned, and he replied by asking didn't they know he had to be in his father's house (some translations say about my father's business). He knew then at twelve who he was. And in all likelihood they probably just watched in amazement. And pondered. Again, remember, they didn't know all we now know from the Bible. None of that had been written.

When we believers are all in our glorious new bodies and in Heaven after the Lord has come to get us, imagine the possibility of being able to talk with Joseph and Mary about their lives with Jesus. I hope we get to do that.

As a quick personal note, when God calls you to do something that is amazing and difficult and you wonder how it would even be possible, keep your eyes open for more confirmation and guidance, possibly from other people or other sources, possibly even years off. Never turn down or discount a word from God to you because it seems impossible. He is the one who makes everything possible.

NEED FOR A JESUS MOVEMENT

I think we need a Jesus movement. I know we need a Jesus movement. But is there time left for that before he comes?

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The Lord is coming soon to collect his believers. We all know that number is small, a few. We know that from scripture. Still, we should be able to help in the Father's drawing more to Jesus and thus more being ready for Jesus to collect.

Several years ago a minister no longer among the living, a man God sent to me, told me at a lunch we need a Jesus movement. And the Lord himself speaking to a Nigerian minister about Cathy and me more than a decade ago said among other things we are his battle ax for an end time revival.

Well, we do spend our efforts telling people who Jesus is and that he is coming soon. We share the full gospel, the power gospel, we operate in the Holy Spirit and his gifts. In the last two years some of our short teaching videos have reached huge numbers in countries throughout the world through the use of social media. Now nearly 19 million have come to our posts there, from Kenya to South Africa to Singapore and the Philippines and Argentina and Germany and Norway and Malaysia and so on. Certainly seems like a Jesus movement, like an end times revival.

Last days - that's the time we are living in. Lost people – that's most of the people on earth.

And then there is you - a believer in the Lord, an alien in a foreign place that is not your home, an ambassador of the Lord. Ask the Lord to guide you. Ask the Holy Spirit to arrange divine encounters and to guide you in those encounters. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Be aware of all happening around you but also be aware of the rubbish that most of that is. Just overcome. Be persistent. You get to rule with Jesus. You get to sit on his throne with him. Most around you are on their way to a horrible end...unless somehow the Father gets their attention and draws them to Jesus. Help him as you can.

TIME – AND MOST STILL DON'T GET IT

Are we not there? Should we go outside and look up? Isn't it time?

Yes, yes, and yes. But the specific hour and minute and second, the actual day, remains a mystery. Maybe there are still a few more people God wishes to add to the Kingdom before Jesus comes to gather his believers. Maybe some of those God chose before the creation of the world to be in the Kingdom still haven't heard. Maybe just one of those has not heard. What if that one person was you?

And so we wait. We wait anxious to leave, to depart, to get off this current world that is not our home.

Years ago the Lord said to me "they don't know because they just don't know." And that is the basic truth isn't it, the fact we see every day throughout our own society as well as amidst those we personally know. So many just do not know the truths of the gospel, do not know Jesus, do not know God, do not know the Bible – so how is it at all possible they would know what is going on in this wildly out of control country and world society?

Well, It's not possible. Not without knowing Jesus. Not without being guided by the Holy Spirit. Not without using the spiritual gift of discernment. We have to realize that the great majority of people in our world do not see and do not comprehend what is going on.

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We are living in the end time, last days battle of evil versus good. People without God are easily led astray by the evil one. There are so many in that camp. And still others are just lost, deluded, confused.

Our role as always is to do all we can to help Father God lead others to Jesus. We ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in this, to arrange divine encounters. But in the end still this large number is just out there, lost, prey to so much evil. Obviously according to Jesus' own words, a great majority are not headed anywhere good (*...small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.* – Matthew 7:14).

MORE TO BE AMAZED ABOUT

We all continue to be amazed at the extraordinary impact of our video ministry in nations throughout the world. Especially I am amazed at those areas which are overwhelmingly non-Christian. In the last few months we have especially focused on such places. India is the great example of a truly non-Christian nation - overwhelmingly non-Christian, four times the population of the US with a majority Hindu followed by a huge Muslim population. There are all sorts of restrictions there in many places regarding evangelism, and we did not know if we would even be allowed to go forward. But we were and we did! At the end of the year our videos had reached more than 2.2 million there. This is just all God! Other surprising nations with wonderful results were such as Malaysia, a largely Muslim nation, and Nigeria with its powerful Muslim population but also a strong Christian presence.

In total at the end of 2025 we have now reached almost 19 million through this amazing video effort. A really big last day's effort.

All of this does take funds and the ministry surely needs funds to keep telling all these people who Jesus is and that he is coming soon!!! Our thanks to all of you who support us with your prayers and financial donations! We can all see with our own eyes the events of the last days playing out and we are so grateful for your help in our getting the truths of the gospel to more and more of those who just do not know them!

**THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT TO YOUR LIFE AND YOUR FUTURE
THAN JESUS AND YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.**

May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

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