

# Mary's Story Is Every Believer's Story

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- I. The favor of Mary is the favor of everyone who responds to the invitations of heaven (Luke 1:26-33).**
- A. Mary believed in the impossible declaration she was given (Luke 1:34-38, 43-45).
  - B. Zachariah, on the other hand, had a little more difficulty with the angel's announcement about his son, John (Luke 1:11-13, 18-20).
  - C. The question for all of us is simple. Will we believe God's good news for us: first, Jesus' invitation to be saved; and then the invitation to receive and release God's miraculous power for others (Mark 1:14-15; Matthew 10:5-8).
  - D. The Bible is the story of God's extending a ceaseless flow of promises and love to all who dare to believe in Him as Mary did.
    - 1. "I am the Lord's servant...May Your word to me be fulfilled." (Luke 1:38).
    - 2. Elizabeth told Mary, "Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill His promises to her" (Luke 1:39-45).
- II. Mary not only believed; she also received the very presence of God. And so it is to be with us (Acts 1:4-8).**
- A. God has new babies waiting to be born through our preaching and demonstration of the Good News of Jesus.
    - 1. God is always promising good things for us (Jeremiah 29:11).
    - 2. He promises to work in and through those who believe His promises and who are willing to become pregnant with power by receiving the Holy Spirit.
    - 3. Receiving and yielding to the Holy Spirit is very different than outward religion.
  - B. God's plans for Mary's Son also include His plans for us (Luke 1:31-33).
    - 1. We are called His sons and daughters (Romans 8:14-16).
    - 2. He wants us to realize that we are highly favored and reflect His glory through our lives (John 14:12-14).
    - 3. Jesus extends His rule through believers, even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:18-20).
- III. Like Mary, we persevere for the promises God makes to us.**
- A. Simeon prophesied of trouble to come, even while Jesus was a baby (Luke 2:34-35).
  - B. Herod tried to kill Jesus when He was a baby. But through the leading of the Holy Spirit, the Child was taken to Egypt and eventually settled in Nazareth.
  - C. Mary persevered and did not let the promise of her baby die.
    - 1. She survived the circumstances of His birth.
    - 2. She was with Jesus, standing at the foot of the cross (John 19:25-27).
    - 3. She was there with the disciples after the resurrection, joining constantly in prayer with the other disciples, waiting for Pentecost (Acts 1:6-14; 2:1-4).

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