



# The Holy Spirit Makes A Difference!

**“And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35).**

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**“And when they had prayed, the**



**place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:31).**

To the apprehensive disciples, Jesus gave the promise **“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you”** (John 16:7). Little did they know at the time, what difference the Holy Spirit will make in their lives. It is however noteworthy that these same disciples who were so fearful that they fled when Jesus was arrested, become so bold and unstoppable after the Holy Ghost came upon them on Pentecost (Acts 2; 4:31).

The Holy Spirit makes a difference in any life He comes upon. Mary learnt this first hand in a unique way, leaving us many valuable lessons: **“Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. 36 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. 37 For with God nothing shall be impossible. 38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her”** (Luke 1:34-38).

Mary's question had only one correct answer - The Holy Spirit; and has many applications for similar contemporary questions and situations.

(1) How do I become the person God wants me to be? God wanted Mary to become the mother of Jesus. Mary could not understand how this could happen as she had not known man. The angel assured her that the Holy Spirit will do it. God has a plan for eve-

ryone before they were born (Jeremiah 1:5). How can we become the fulfilment of God's plan for our lives - by The Holy Ghost! David remained a shepherd boy, and the parents never considered him fit to be at the anointing ceremony by Samuel, but when the Spirit of God came upon him following the anointing by Samuel, he became the man God wanted him to be (1 Samuel 16:1,11-13). Similarly:

- when the Spirit of God came upon Saul he was turned into another man and prophesied (1 Samuel 10:6).
  - The move of the Holy Spirit on Sampson, turned him into the person the angel prophesied about (Judges 13:1-5, 24,25).
  - The disciples became proof producers in their witness for Christ after the Holy Ghost came upon them (Acts 1:8).
- (2) How do I achieve the Impossible? To Mary, it felt impossible for a virgin to become a mother, but she believed the angel. The Holy Spirit Makes the Impossible become possible:
- Sampson tore a lion to pieces like a kid when the Holy Spirit came upon him (Judges 14:5-6).
  - Sampson broke free from the ropes and killed 1000 men with the jaw bone of an ass by the power of the Holy

Spirit (Judges 15:14-16). How do I destroy the enemy of God today? By The Holy Spirit!

- Sampson broke open the gate of the City, carried it on his shoulders, terrorising the forces against him, and took it from Gaza to the hill in Hebron, a distance of about 20 miles, all by the power of the Holy Spirit. A person filled with the Holy Spirit turns into a terror against the forces of darkness and forces open the gates of a City / nation for the Gospel. Frustration results when a person tries to do God's work without the Holy Ghost.
- (3) How do I become a Wonder? Mary knew that she would become a wonder if she became pregnant as a virgin. The Holy Spirit performs wonders through the lives of the persons carrying Him. For example, the healing of the man at the beautiful gate through Peter (Acts 3:1-11); the shadow of Peter healing the sick (Acts 5:1-16); special miracles through Paul transmitted with aprons, handkerchiefs, etc (Acts 19:11-25).
- (4) How will the laws of nature be suspended for me to have breakthroughs? Mary knew that it was unnatural for a virgin to conceive, when her 'womb' had not yet been 'unlocked'. The Holy Spirit has power to suspend natural laws for believers to achieve their goals. For example:
- Joshua commanded and the sun stood still (against natural laws), for complete victory to be won over the enemies of God (Joshua 10:13).
  - Peter walked on water against the laws of gravity (Matthew 14:22-33).
  - As the Holy Spirit opened Mary's womb for conception against natural laws, so also was Peter miraculously released from Prison that remained physically locked (Acts 12:5-11).
- (5) How do I have a testimony that will sound too good to be believed? When Mary asked "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" she was probably pondering "who will believe me?" and inadvertently re-echoing

Isaiah's prophecy "Who hath believed our report" (Isaiah 53:1). She knew that her testimony would be such that people would find it difficult to believe. When the Holy Spirit comes He gives believers spectacular testimonies (Psalms 126:1-3; Psalms 23), which they may sometimes find difficult to share for fear that they would be misunderstood; just like Mary hid her pregnancy for fear that people will not believe her story.

- (6) How do I become part of an earth shaking event? As a Jew, Mary would have been 'schooled' in the prophecy about the virgin birth of The Messiah - an earth shaking event! The operation of the Holy Spirit produces earth shaking events, and we can become involved in it by becoming channels for the Holy Spirit's move (Acts 2:1-4; 4:31).
- (7) How do I excel in a unique manner? Mary knew she would become unique as the virgin birth was to be a one-off event. There has never been another case like that either before or after hers. This made her to become one of a kind. Besides, the Child (Jesus) that she was to give birth to had been prophesied to be great (Luke 1:31-32). After His resurrection and ascension, Paul, by the Holy Spirit confirmed that **"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; **11** And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11). The power of The Holy Spirit causes people to excel to the degree that they allow Him to operate through them. The Holy Spirit was one of the criteria for selection of the original deacons in Acts 6:1-8, but we hear more about Stephen because of the level to which he allowed the Holy Spirit to fill him.

The Holy Spirit is indispensable for our success. How full you are is determined by your thirst. Get the baptism in fire today!