**Have You Heard?**

**Breath of Heaven - Part 3**

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**Scriptures**

**Philippians 1:6**

…being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;…

**Galatians 4:19**

My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,…

# **Introduction**

*Obviously, the assignment to birth Christ was a one-time event, but Christ is birthed in all of us.*

# **Central Truth**

***When you have heard from God, you can be confident that, He that has begun a good work will be faithful to complete it.***

Obviously, the growth that happened in Mary was literal and only one woman in the history of the world could be given that assignment. However, as God’s people, we will experience a spiritual expectancy that has a great impact on our world. Much like Mary, we are changed by Christ in us, through us and around us.

**Scripture Text**

[**Luke1:46-55**](http://www.jackhayford.com/ospn/sermon_for_the_week/sermon_archives/mary_model.html##)

***Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat***

**46**And Mary said:

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
**47**And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.
**48**For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.
**49**For He who is mighty has done great things for me,
And holy *is* His name.
**50**And His mercy *is* on those who fear Him
From generation to generation.
**51**He has shown strength with His arm;
He has scattered *the* proud in the imagination of their hearts.
**52**He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones,
And exalted *the* lowly.
**53**He has filled *the* hungry with good things,
And *the* rich He has sent away empty.
**54**He has helped His servant Israel,
In remembrance of *His* mercy,
**55**As He spoke to our fathers,
To Abraham and to his seed forever.”

# **Main Points**

What I hear must be expressed in words. How do I put words into what I hear?

* I believed therefore I have spoken
* Mary burst out in praises and in song
* Anna burst out in anthem
* Angels burst out in worship.
1. **Jesus GROWING in me – God desires to develop you**
2. Christ in you
* Paul said, “It’s no longer I that live but Christ that lives in me”

**Galatians 2:20**

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

1. What happened in Mary is not only an example but also a prototype for the Christian faith and the follower of Christ
2. Jesus in me – God desires to enter your life
* Most of us have already received Jesus Christ as our Saviour, but at this Christmas, are you consciously:
* **Opening** up to a new dimension of Jesus in you?
* Are you **willing** to want more of His Kingdom in you?
* If you let Him in, it will not continue to be the *status quo*.
1. It can be “**uncomfortable**” to be pregnant. If Jesus gets inside you:
* It is going to **stretch you -** just like natural pregnancy does to a woman
* It will **change the way you walk**
* People will talk about you – positive and negative
* Let Jesus begin to grow in you.
1. **Mary was blessed**
* In this song of praise sung by Mary, there is a portion of a verse frequently misunderstood. When we read Mary saying, **“Behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed,”** (vs. 48) some have taken this to mean Mary is to be esteemed above other beings.
* The Greek word for blessed (used in this text) is not the word synonymous for praise or exaltation but a simple word meaning **joy and happiness to every believer who will heed the Lord’s way** and hear His word (Matthew 5:8). Mary is saying **that she is happy** because the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 has happened to her.

**Hearing The Voice of God**

* Samuel began to hear from God but he did not know it was the Lord
* Elijah heard the still small voice – discernment
* When Paul was knocked off his horse, he heard the voice of the Lord while others just heard thunder
* Drown out the noise around you
* Replace the noise around you
1. **Jesus happening through you - God desires to work through you**
	1. Christ through you
	2. The idea that the prophecy spoken to Mary was coming to pass—the Word of the Lord working through Mary
	3. The **“happening through”** happens in every way you can think of – sometimes it is **“inconvenient”**
* For Mary, it happened in a stable instead of more suitable and comfortable quarters
* There is **travail that attends birth**—when Christ starts to happen through you, it is not always a neat and easy moment but, the **outflow of it is mighty**, and the impact that it has on your world **is** **worth it**
	1. The Lord would have us understand about His wanting to be **incarnate in our midst**—**Emmanuel”** = God with us.
	2. Luke 2:19 - But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.
* Key word – PONDER

Mary pondered in heart:

* To bring together in one’s mind, confer with oneself
* She rehearsed
* To contemplate
* She operated in curiosity
* The inner voice - she marvelled
* Here is external hearing and internal hearing
* Faith and doubt
* God speaks to the inner man.
1. **Jesus changing the world around us – God desires to impact spheres of influence**
	1. Christ around you!
	2. Mary welcomed what the Lord wanted to do through her
* She became a case study of **God making an investment** and **God finding an instrument**
* He wants a new dimension of the incarnation of His Son in us
* God wants to **invest** Jesus in us to **multiply** His life **through** us, and to make us an **instrument** through which He can touch the world
	1. The word generation does not always refer to a season of years, but also to a **genre** or a type of people.
* When Mary says, “**all generations** shall call me blessed,” she is saying, “*There will never be a genre of people who, if they understand what has happened to me, will not look toward this as the possibility of a happy moment for them as well.”* In other words, it is timeless. Mary is not suggesting that she is divine nor that she should be worshiped.
	1. Mary rejoices in this rich truth with:
* Worship (vs. 46-47)
* Wonder (vs. 48)
* Praise (vs. 51-52)
* Promise (vs. 53-54)
	1. She is rejoicing because she knows **God has done something in her that is going to last** – it is eternal
* That song happens in anybody who opens up and says, “*Lord, I want something new of You”.*
	1. She **REJOICES** because:
* There is renewed **hope** (vs. 48) that God has exalted the ordinary person
* Mary’s **wonder** and **worship** are based on the ability of God to come and bring life into her
* As a member of the Israeli culture, living under the heel of Roman rule, she says, **“What God is working in me is going to break the oppression that is on me and around me** (vs. 51-52)
* God resists the proud and the haughty and exalts the humble
* He sends away the “rich” not as an economic condition; a person can have almost nothing and still refuse God’s offer: *I don’t need that.* The Lord says, *then you will not get it*. He sends you away empty because you provided Him no place to give you anything. But in contrast, **He fills the hungry** (vs. 53-54).
	1. **Expectancy gives birth to hope:** In the midst of anguish, chaos, and confusion, we require a fresh infusion of hope:
* Mary is worshipping God because He has given her expectancy
* We use the same word to describe our hopes and dreams as we use to describe a woman who is going to have a baby
* **God comes to bring an “expectation”**
* You have to decide if you are willing to open the gift of expectancy
	1. Mary’s song of praise glorifies God working in her life. The Lord wants you to entertain an expectation He would like to bring to you.

**Conclusion**

Elizabeth provides the secret of Mary’s life – FAITH! It is out of this very discussion that Mary breaks out into song and begins to glorify God for all the amazing things He has done through her life.

**Luke 1:45**

Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."

**Group Questions & Discussion**

1. How have you experienced the life of God?
2. Describe a time that you burst into song as you worshipped God.
3. How has God fulfilled His word in your life?
4. How has faith been the secret sauce of your life?
5. Why does God resist the proud and exalt the humble?
6. What does Mary mean when she says that God has sent the rich away empty?
7. What makes Mary such an exceptional person and leader? Provide five examples.