



## **Faith and the Birth of Jesus**

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**Sunday Sermon – 12/21/2025**

**John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

God does very little here on the earth without involving humanity. And humanity can do nothing pleasing unto God unless you can do it by faith. **Hebrews 11:6 (NLT) And it is impossible to please God without faith.**

We see in this verse that Father God is offering His only begotten son as a gift, a sacrifice offering for the sins of mankind. God did this out of the Love that He has for us, and because of His great love, He asserted His grace toward us.

But even though God offered Jesus *as a gift*, mankind still had to take advantage of it.

The only way humanity can take advantage of what God has offered is through another Gift He gives: faith.

**Romans 12:3...as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.**

Jesus came to earth by the substance of faith.

**Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

God grants us faith to fulfill our hopes, and He provides the Word of God to guide us on what to hope for.

This significant prophecy, which instilled hope in humanity for the arrival of the Messiah (Jesus Christ), was first proclaimed by God in the Garden of Eden.

**Genesis 3:15 (ERV) *rephrases it as:* "I will make you and the woman enemies to each other. Your children and her children will be enemies. You will bite her child's foot, but he will crush your head."**

This verse is important in understanding the Bible. It talks about the conflict between the serpent and the woman, as well as between their descendants. Some are natural, and some are supernatural, as described in

**Ephesians chapter 6.**

This passage "**Genesis 3:15**" really sets the stage for a hopeful story in the Bible, introducing us to the idea of a future deliverer, Jesus Christ.

This verse also indicates that we have an enemy who will seek to prevent the full realization of that hope. From living the life that is quoted in **John 10:10... to have life to the full till it overflows.**

God sustained this hope throughout the OT, as revealed to Moses in the Torah, in the Psalms, and in the Prophets.



At the appointed time, when Jesus was to enter the world as the embodiment of God's Word, God continued to use faithful individuals to bring His plan to fruition.

Let's look at some people who lived by Real Faith at the time of His birth, hoping to see the Messiah.

**Simeon's Real Faith-Luke 2:25-32 (NLT) At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him 26 and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, 28 Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, 29 "Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised.**

Simeon was characterized by his eager anticipation of the Messiah's arrival, **"eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come.** His unwavering faith allowed him to witness the fulfillment of his hope.

The Bible says that this characteristic of **"eagerly awaiting to see Jesus come"** by faith will be one of the major qualifications for going back with Him at the rapture.

**Hebrews 9:28 (NLT) so also Christ died once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him**

**Anna's Real Faith-Luke 2:36-38 (NLT) Anna, a prophet, ...37 Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. 38 She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.**

Anna was also waiting expectantly for Jesus to come.

We see here that Anna had such faith that it led her to fast and pray for the coming of the Messiah.

Some of the things you may be hoping for today may require more than prayer; they may also require fasting.

Her faith and hope led her to tell everyone about the coming of the Messiah, (Jesus Christ). Real faith will always lead us to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Real faith is not stagnant. It is important to understand that faith is given to us for more than just making our lives more comfortable or securing our place in heaven. When you have genuine faith, it will motivate you to share Jesus Christ, proclaiming that He is our Savior, our Deliverer, our Keeper, and the soon-coming King.

The wise men's Real faith-**Matthew 2:1-11** These wise men recognized and understood the word of God. In addition to being astrologers, they had deep faith in Jewish prophecy of a King who would be born near Jerusalem, which inspired them to travel a great distance to see Him worship Him and support His ministry.



The journey for these men is estimated to be between 800 and 1,000 miles, taking several months. Real faith will persist to see God's word manifest, enduring various challenges along the way.

Sometimes, by faith, you have to prepare for the Long haul.

Real faith is active; it takes action to fulfill its purpose and mission, trusting that God will provide a way to achieve these goals, even when the path is not immediately clear.

**...10 When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! 11 They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

Real Faith will lead one to worship and give with Joy.

And there is no real faith without having faith in the faithfulness of God and applying faith to be faithful to God and His word.

Mary had Real Faith-Luke 1:26-38 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" *Everyone who is a believer is blessed among all humanity.*

*Not only are you Blessed, but you also have the favor of God on your life! Because you are favored by God, you have favor with man.*

**Favor is fair, because I'm a believer and Favor is my right!**

**29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.**

**32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."**

Those of us who are believers should have this hope within us as well: to rule and reign with Jesus Christ for 1000 years and beyond, as kings and priests. *This is one of the reasons why we're still here, we're training for reigning.*

**34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. ... 37 For with God nothing will be impossible."**

If you use your faith and take advantage of the opportunity that grace is offering, all things are possible!

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The angel brought a word of promise to Mary, and if we look to the Bible, we see that God has offered us many promises He has said yes to. **2 Corinthians 1:20 (NLT) For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.**

**38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.** In other words, Mary said Amen. Mary agreed with the promise of the spoken word.

Mary wasn't uneducated; she had heard that the prophecy of the Messiah was to come. Hearing that prophecy produces faith, so she believed that he would come. She just did not know that she would be the one to bring Him into the world.

There are many promises for the believer just waiting on you to agree by saying Amen, "let it be unto me according to your word".

These promises are alive, awaiting your response. **Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and powerful...** It is our agreement and corresponding actions that put the promises of God to work on our behalf and bring our hope to manifestation.

Some of us are carrying revelation from God that is just waiting on us to apply our faith both verbally and in action so that the manifestations will come to pass.