

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expository Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 1- Luke 1:46-55** 15- Our Connection to the Magnificat

January 25, 2009

Luke 1:46-55

Dear friends, nothing in all the world is more important or more valuable than the Truth. The Bible says in **1Timothy 3:15** that the Church of Jesus Christ is:

... the pillar and support of the truth.

Therefore, Divinely inspired Truth is a bedrock in the Church of Jesus; it is fundamental, it is the Source of all that we say and do. The Bible teaches that Divine Truth was given to Man, it was revealed to man by God, it was *imposed* on Man by a Sovereign God. It did not originate with Man himself- but came from God to Man.

Therefore- it is God- exercising His glorious Sovereignty- Who distinguishes between what is true and what is false, between that which is holy and that which is profane, and between what is right and what is wrong. It is God Who defines what is sin and what is righteousness, and, therefore, worship, true worship, Spirit and Truth worship is the condemnation and the rejection of what God has defined as being sin, and true worship is the receiving and the acceptance of what God has defined as being Righteousness. And that is what we call Truth.

And since that is true- Truth, therefore, can be both taught and learned; it is knowable. Truth is not a bar of wet soap that we cannot grasp; it is not a vapor that cannot be touched or handled. No, Divine Eternal Absolute Truth is that body of teaching that came out of the Mouth of God, and which was received by holy men, and which was recorded for us in the pages of the 66 Books of the Holy Bible.

And because all of that is just the way it is- there is certainty in Truth, and there is an authority to it, and an absoluteness to it that brings comfort and hope and strength to feeble Man.

And it is this certainty and this authority and this absoluteness that Divine Truth gives that is under such attack in our day by a pseudo-false humility that says that it is arrogance to know anything for sure. Today, men are considered to be humble, and, therefore, worthy of attention and admiration if they say they do *not* know- but the essence of Truth is that we do grasp it, that we do hold it, that we comprehend it so that we may be found faithfully obedient to it- that we struggle with it until we arrive at its feet.

Today, there is no shortage of people willing to kill for a lie- and yet there seems to be so few today who are willing to die for the Truth. Yet history is filled with the accounts of people who chose to accept torture or death rather than to deny the magnificent Truth of a holy God. How did we get so off base?

Consider the testimonies of the many Christian martyrs throughout recorded history. They were all- valiant warriors for the Truth- they knew Truth, they understood it, they taught it, they spoke it, they wrote about it, they defended it, and to a man- they died for it. Truth was not a mystery to them. These people were not terrorists or violent people – but they “fought” for the Truth in three very important ways:

1. By proclaiming it in the face of fierce opposition
2. By living lives that gave testimony to both the Power and the Goodness of Truth
3. By refusing to renounce or forsake or compromise the Truth- regardless of what the penalty of that faithfulness was

Does anyone really believe that very many of the entertainment hungry Churchgoers who pack today's mega-churches would be willing to actually die for Truth today? In fact- most people who attend the modern Church don't even believe that standing on Truth and proclaiming it and defending it against all attacks is even a Christian thing to do- which is why do few today will even take a strong stand for the Truth when the chips are down- much less actually suffer personally for it or die for it.

Much of the visible Church today seems to think that believers are supposed to be "at play" rather than "at war". The concept of actually *fighting* for doctrinal Truth is the furthest thing from most Church-goer's thoughts. Contemporary Church members are much more concerned with getting the lost world to like them rather than to actually stand on Truth and proclaim it.

The modern Church has grown lazy, worldly, and self-absorbed. Church leaders are obsessed with style and methodology, and have completely lost interest in the Glory of God while becoming grossly apathetic about Truth and Sound Doctrine.

And so we find ourselves this morning engaged in two wars at the same time. Our nation is engaged in a titanic world battle that is being waged *external* to the Church against the followers of the demonic religion of Islam, and we call that war- the War on Terror. And the success of that War will depend on two things:

1. How serious we view the threat that is against us
2. How much we value what the savages are attacking

If we don't see the threat against us as being real or serious- then we will not win this War, and if we do not value what is being attacked- we will not win the War on Terror.

But, we are also engaged in another titanic battle- and this one is *internal*- this battle is going on *inside* the Church- and this battle is against apathy and false doctrine and heresy and unbiblical practices and teachings against the evil workers of iniquity, and the false prophets and the false teachers and the apostates and the heretics and we call that battle- the War on Error. And the success of this internal War will depend on two things:

3. How serious we view the threat that is against us
4. How much we value what the heretics are attacking

And like the War on Terror- if we don't see the threat against us as being real or serious- then understand that we will lose this War, and if we do not value what is being attacked- if we do not value Divinely inspired Truth- we will lose the War on Error.

And part of us winning this War on Error is that we will become willing to pay any price, go any distance, start or stop anything so as to return to our First Love and to earnestly and sincerely contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints.

So as we engage ourselves in dedicated and set aside times of Bible reading and Bible Study, and as we engage ourselves in fervent and effectual Prayer Meetings, and as we engage ourselves in times of Godly Fellowship, and as this radical kind of Love inconveniences us to pick up our Crosses and to deny ourselves and to follow Jesus and to love and serve each other and to do our good works before men so that they may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in Heaven- then we will become convinced by Scripture to drop and cast aside some of our most cherished held beliefs because we will find them to be unscriptural while at the same time- we will embrace new and exciting beliefs because Scripture has convinced us of their value.

And we will be changed from Glory to Glory even as by the Spirit of God, and where we were weak- we will become strong, and where we failed- we will succeed, and where we fell down- we will get up, and we will be able to offer Jesus Christ our transformed lives as a living sacrifice and we will be able to offer our hearts and lives and dreams and ambitions as a living Epistle written and engraved by the very Finger of God, and God will be glorified, and our joy will be full.

And there is no greater battle ground that perfectly illustrates this transformation and the importance of basing our beliefs on what the Bible actually means by what it says and not human logic than the issue of our text this morning- the rejoicing of this Virgin girl named Mary.

You see, when the angel Gabriel in **Luke 1:26** told the young virgin Mary that she was going to have a Child- Who would be the Son of God and reign over the house of Jacob forever- in **Luke 1:32**, Mary said, "**How can this be?**" And the angel answered her that the Holy Spirit would come upon her in such a way that the Child's Conception would be Divine.

And then Gabriel gave Mary the added confirmation that nothing is impossible with God by telling her that her kinswoman Elizabeth who was old and barren was also pregnant. So according to **Luke 1:39** and following:

Luke 1:39-45

39 Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah,

40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

42 And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed *are* you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb!

43 And how has it *happened* to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me?

44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.

45 And blessed *is* she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.

Now the angel had promised Zechariah in **Luke 1:15** that John the Baptist would be filled with the Spirit even from his mother's womb. That is, the Spirit of God would exercise a unique control on this man from the time he is in his mother's womb until he completes his ministry as a grown man. And that is what it means to be "filled with the Spirit". This is not some emotional ecstasy or mystical experience. It is not about speaking in tongues or falling on the floor. No, being filled with God's Spirit is to be empowered by the Spirit, to be led by God's Spirit, to be endued with power from on High to walk this world in white, to bow to the authority of Scripture, to take up our Cross, deny ourselves and to follow Jesus, and to live our lives in humble submission to the Glory of God by rejecting what God said is sin and embracing what God said is righteousness.

So Luke gives evidence of this: Mary approaches Elizabeth, carrying the Son of God in her virgin womb, and little John gives Elizabeth a good kick in the diaphragm. Then Luke says that Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit herself and cries out:

"Mary, my child is leaping for joy. The Holy Spirit has helped him before he can even speak to bear witness to the Lord in your womb."

Mary's Godliness Shown

And that's all the confirmation Mary needs. She now sees very clearly a most remarkable thing about God: He is about to change the course of all human history. You see, the most important three decades in all of history are about to begin. And where is the Omnipotent Creator in all of this? Occupying himself with two obscure, humble women—one old and barren, and the other- young and virginal. And Mary is so moved by this vision of God- the Lover of the lowly- that she breaks out in song—a song that has come to be known as *The Magnificat*. And it is found right here in **Luke 1:46-55**- please read with me:

- 46 And Mary said: “My soul exalts the Lord,
47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.
48 “For He has had regard for the humble state of His bonds slave; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.
49 “For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name.
50 “AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.
51 “He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered *those who were proud* in the thoughts of their heart.
52 “He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones, And has exalted those who were humble.
53 “HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; And sent away the rich empty-handed.
54 “He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy,
55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his descendants forever.”**

Now this praise from Mary to God may seem to be nothing more than Mary getting caught way in her emotional excitement over all that is being done- but I assure you that this section of Scripture is also inspired by God, and it, too, is inerrant, and it is infallible and eternal and authoritative, and it is relevant to us today. So we need to examine this just as closely as we would any other part of the Holy Bible.

Now we need to take note here how that both Mary and Elizabeth- these two women are wonderful heroines in Luke's Gospel Account. He

loves the faith of these women. And the thing that impresses him most, it appears, and the thing that Luke wants to impress on Theophilus- the man to whom Luke wrote this Book and **Acts**- is the lowliness and cheerful humility of both Elizabeth and Mary.

Elizabeth says in **Luke 1:43**:

And how has it *happened* to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me?

And Mary says in **Luke 1:48**:

For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondslave; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.

Now these two statements illustrate a reality about God that we need to understand in our day. The only people whose soul can truly magnify the Lord are people like Elizabeth and Mary—people who acknowledge their lowly estate and who are overwhelmed by the Condescension and Glory of the magnificent God.

People who are impressed with their *own* accomplishments and people who are filled with the sense of their *own* self-importance are enemies of God, and are, by definition, people whom the Lord resists, and they are people who cannot give to God any Glory at all. That is why Peter said in **1Peter 5:5**:

... likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

Now I think we should notice one other way that Mary's godliness shows itself. Do you remember the story of Samuel and his mother Hannah in the OT? You will remember that Hannah had no children and was abused by other women because of it. And Hannah prayed earnestly that the Lord would give her a son. And God heard her prayer and gave her Samuel. Now over in **1Samuel 2**- Hannah also sings a song of praise which is very similar to Mary's song- and I want to look at that song this morning- so please turn with me to read **1Samuel 2:1-10**:

- 1 “My heart exults in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD,
My mouth speaks boldly against my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your
salvation.
- 2 “There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You,
Nor is there any rock like our God.
- 3 “Boast no more so very proudly, Do not let arrogance come out of your
mouth; For the LORD is a God of knowledge, And with Him actions are
weighed.
- 4 “The bows of the mighty are shattered, But the feeble gird on strength.
- 5 “Those who were full hire themselves out for bread, But those who were
hungry cease *to hunger*. Even the barren gives birth to seven, But she who has
many children languishes.
- 6 “The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up.
- 7 “The LORD makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts.
- 8 “He raises the poor from the dust, He lifts the needy from the ash heap To
make them sit with nobles, And inherit a seat of honor; For the pillars of the
earth are the LORD’S, And He set the world on them.
- 9 “He keeps the feet of His godly ones, But the wicked ones are silenced in
darkness; For not by might shall a man prevail.
- 10 “Those who contend with the LORD will be shattered; Against them He will
thunder in the heavens, The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; And He
will give strength to His king, And will exalt the horn of His anointed.”

Now as you read what Mary said in **Luke 1**, and what Hannah said here in **1Samuel 2**- don't you see some very interesting parallel expressions and ideas? For example:

Hannah (1 Samuel 2)	Mary (Luke 1)
v. 1 My heart exults in the LORD; I rejoice in Your salvation.	v. 46f. My soul exalts the Lord, my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

v. 2 There is no one holy like the LORD	v. 49 Holy is his name.
v. 4 The bows of the mighty are shattered, But the feeble gird on strength.	v. 52 He has brought down rulers from <i>their</i> thrones, And has exalted those who were humble.
v. 5 Those who were full hire themselves out for bread, But those who were hungry cease <i>to hunger</i> .	v. 53 HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; And sent away the rich empty- handed. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

Now we must notice that the parallels are not word for word here, and that is because neither Mary nor Luke is quoting directly from the Old Testament- which was completed and in wide circulation throughout the world 200 years before this time with Mary. But it seems to me that Mary is so steeped in OT Scripture that when she breaks out in praise- the words that come naturally to her lips are the words of Scripture that she is familiar with. And that is a very important point for us today.

You see, we can tell from how Mary praised God that as a young woman- she no doubt loved the Old Testament Stories of the women of faith like Sarah, Deborah, Hannah, Ruth, and Abigail. And this serves as an admonition to us all- both women and men (young and old—Mary probably was not over 15)- that we, too, should so steep our minds and hearts in the Scriptures day and night so that the words and thoughts of Scripture fill our mouths as naturally as they did Mary's.

How tragic it is to hear Christians today quote Oprah Winfrey or Jack Nicholson when they are blessed by God rather than Scripture. How sad it is to hear groups of people in the Church talk among themselves for hours and yet never hear one Word of Scripture come out of their mouths. When did it begin that God's people became so distant from God's Word?

Why would we quote the lost unsaved world when we don't believe with what they say or how they live? Why would we be so influenced by evil doers that we would so value what they say or how they live, and we would not copy what godly people say and we would not repeat Words that come from the Scriptures?

What are you reading right now? A good murder mystery? A nice romance novel? A book on sports statistics? What are you casting your eyes on, Television, the Internet, video games? Where does Jesus fit into your life? Sunday Morning?

I beg you to take inventory, dear friends, of the words that come out of your own mouth. Scripture tells us that what comes out of our mouths is that which lives and dwells inside our hearts. Bad words always means a bad heart. And Holy Words, Words from Scripture coming out of our mouths indicates that God's Word is in our hearts.

When do you take time out during the day- at your home, in your office, at the store, on the job, in private or in public- when does the magnificence of God's Grace overwhelm you so that you can say with Mary,

My soul exalts the Lord!

Now let's look briefly at what Mary says in her praise to God. I see three distinct sections in the Magnificat:

1. There is Mary's expression of what she feels in her heart (**Luke 1:46 & 47**), namely, joy.
2. Mary mentions what God has done specifically for her as an individual (**Luke 1: 48 & 49**): regarded her lowliness, did great things for her, and thus gave her an enduring reputation for blessedness.
3. Mary spends most of the time describing the way God is in general.

And while it is true that Mary does acknowledge the good thing that God has done for her- please notice that it is this general Character of God that takes up the most time in her praise, and it is this- Mary singing about the general Character of God- that accounts for why God has treated her the way He has in her lowliness, and, thus, leads her to rejoice and magnify the Lord.

Now we are going to look at these three sections in reverse order.

The Holy God Helps the Lowly

Luke 1:49b

... holy is His name.

Now it is here- in the second half of **Luke 1:49**- that Mary makes the general statement that God's Name is *holy*. And what Mary meant by that is that God's Nature- the very Essence of God- is holiness. God is completely free from sin and His Ways are not our ways. He is separate from and exalted above all that has been created. All of God's Attributes are perfect- and they all cohere in a perfect harmony called holiness. And that is what makes God to be worthy of our worship- because He is not like us, because He doesn't think or act like us, because He is higher than we are.

But what Mary emphasizes here is the way this holiness expresses itself. And her words are a warning to Theophilus back then, and a warning to us today, not to make the common mistake that because God is great that He is partial to great men, or that because God is exalted that He favors what is exalted among men because just the opposite is true.

God is not partial to great men and God does not favor what man exalts- no, God's holiness has expressed itself and will express itself by exalting the lowly and abasing the haughty. So since that is true- unlike what the lost pagan world teaches- we should earnestly seek to be humble- not great, we should pray to be abased- not exalted, we should strive to decrease- not increase, so that God's Grace can be manifest in our lives

So what fills Mary's heart with joy is that God loves to undertake for the underdog who calls on His Mercy out of a trembling broken heart. The prophet Isaiah said in **Isaiah 66:2:**

... to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word

And Mary mentions this three times:

In **Luke 1:50**, she says:

AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.

In **Luke 1:52b**- Mary says:

... and has exalted those who were humble

And in **Luke 1:53a**- Mary says:

HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS...

So that's one side of God's holiness- God lifts up and has mercy and fills the trembling ones, the lowly ones, and the hungry ones. So I ask you this morning:

- ✓ Do you tremble before God? Do you fear God? Do you tremble at His Word?
- ✓ Are you lowly in the way you live and the way you speak and the way you carry out your own life?
- ✓ Are you hungering after God's Righteousness? Or are you already filled with your own self-righteousness?

But the other side of God's holiness is that God opposes and abases the haughty. And in those same verses- Mary mentions this three times also:

Luke 1:51b

... He has scattered *those who were* proud in the thoughts of their heart.

And in the first part of **Luke 1:52:**

He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones,

And in the last part of **Luke 1:53:**

... and sent away the rich empty-handed.

So we see that God scatters the proud, puts down the mighty, and sends the rich away empty. So since this is also true about God- I ask you this morning:

- ✓ Are you scattered from the stability that is in Jesus Christ?
- ✓ Has God had to take you down a notch because you had risen up too high in your own mind?
- ✓ Are you satisfied with what God has already provided for you- or are you constantly coveting after more and feel unfulfilled and empty?

It is clear from Mary's words (and from the whole Bible) that God is not partial to the rich or the powerful or the proud. And even though those attributes are praised and sought out among us- and even though those things are the very popular subjects of the modern pillow prophets of our day- the Bible says that God is against those things.

And if you stop and think about it- how could God be partial to the things which in our world are, more often than not, substitutes for God rather than pointers to God? You see, dear friends, great numbers of people have perished because they were enamored by their own pride, their own power, and temporary wealth. And probably Theophilus, as a ranking Roman official, has all three of these.

So Mary's Magnificat is not just recorded out of pure interest in history, but as a word of warning and of salvation here. Luke is saying,

“Theophilus, look at what God is really like. He is not the least impressed by any of your pride, power, or opulence. He has mercy on those who fear Him, who humble themselves and turn from the ego boosting accumulation of wealth to the lowliness of self-denial for the sake of others. This is the way God is, Theophilus. This is how His Holiness expresses itself. Does this not commend itself as true, that the great and holy God should magnify His Greatness by blessing the lowly who admire His Greatness and by abasing the haughty who resent His Greatness?”

The Holy God Blesses Mary

So that's the third section of the Magnificat. And now I want to move upward to the second section, **Luke 1:48&49a**. So let's read those verses again together:

Luke 1:48&49a

48 “For He has had regard for the humble state of His bonds slave; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.

49 “For the Mighty One has done great things for me...

Here Mary simply sees in her own experience as an example of the way God is. He condescends to Mary's lowliness and does a great thing for her: God makes her the mother of Jesus Christ! It is such a singular and unimaginable blessing that all generations from that time on have acknowledged Mary's blessedness. Once Mary learned from the song of Hannah and all the Old Testament that God abases the proud but blesses the lowly who look to Him for Mercy- but now Mary has found it to be true through her own experience. Probably it is *because* she had learned it so well from Scripture that she was ready and able to experience it herself.

And this is probably the place for a cry to you and me to look at Mary Biblically. I have not shied away from telling you the Truth about Mary- even though some would criticize men for doing so. The Bible does not teach that Mary hears and answers prayers. That is an

unbiblical teaching. Mary has never and will never hear and answer a single prayer made by anyone on this earth- not one.

Mary has no Grace to dispense to anyone. Mary was not and is not the *dispenser* of Grace. The Bible does not teach that. Mary is the *recipient* of God's marvelous Grace- just like we are. And we need to understand that only sinful lost human beings need Grace, and Mary needed Grace to the very same extent that we do- precisely because Mary herself needed Grace in order to be saved. Mary did not possess merit enough for Heaven any more than anyone else does. Mary was born in sin and Mary was shapen in iniquity and she was tainted with Original Sin- just like we are.

Mary was a sinner who was saved by Grace- God gave Mary Grace- Mary did not already possess it. And God gave Mary Grace precisely because Mary needed it.

What the Roman Church has taught and is teaching today about Mary is sinful, dear friends, it is unbiblical and it is wrong. Mary would never agree with Rome's teaching because Mary magnified the Lord- not herself. Mary is not the mediator between Man and Christ- the Bible does not teach that anywhere. Mary is not a co-redemptrix with Christ for Salvation- that, too, is unbiblical. Mary is not the dispenser of special Grace- and Mary does not and cannot hear or answer one single prayer- only God can do that.

Now anytime I speak like this- I hear from Roman Catholics who say that I am bashing Mary or bashing the Roman Religion. I am not. I am simply correcting an ungodly heresy that has been fabricated by Man and which cannot be proven by Scripture and which cannot help anyone go to Heaven- in fact- it hinders people; it stops people from reaching the Truth about this.

But as I say these things about Mary to teach the Truth about Mary- to agree with Scripture about Mary- I also need to say without any hesitation that much of what Protestants have said about Mary in response to the errors of Rome are also just as wrong and just as unbiblical.

Mary is not a Deity, Mary cannot save anyone, Mary cannot receive and answer anyone's prayers, Mary does not dispense Grace to anyone, and Mary is not a go-between that stands between us and Jesus. The Roman Catholic Doctrines about Mary's sinless life, her

perpetual virginity, her bodily assumption into heaven, and her role in Salvation have no basis in the New Testament.

In fact, there is an implicit warning against excessive veneration of Mary in **Luke 11:27&28**- please turn with me to that passage:

27 While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed.”

28 But He said, “On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”

At another time (recorded in **Luke 8:19–21**), Luke records:

19 And His mother and brothers came to Him, and they were unable to get to Him because of the crowd.

20 And it was reported to Him, “Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, wishing to see You.”

21 But He answered and said to them, “My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.”

Jesus was fairly blunt in both of these instances, and there surely is no indication that Mary should be venerated in a moral class by herself.

Mary's Heart Magnifies the Holy God

But even though all of that is true- we must understand, dear friends, that Mary is unique. She is special. No other woman on the face of the earth was chosen to bear the Son of God but Mary. So we should respect her and honor her and admire and follow her faith just like we would any other godly example in Scripture. So let's not let the excesses of the Roman tradition keep us from sharing the admiration for Mary that Luke obviously had. Let us view Mary Biblically as a woman who was in need of God's Grace and yet as a woman who received God's Grace and we should rejoice in that. And while it is wrong to pray to Mary or to ask for Mary's merit or to ask for Mary's help in Salvation- it is equally as wrong for us to reject or even bypass all that God has done with and in and through Mary here.

Mary's spiritual beauty reaches its emotional peak in the first part of her song where she responds from the heart to all God did for her,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

And we would do well to copy that kind of rejoicing. We all would do well to follow Mary and use Mary as one of those people whose faith we follow.

Mary fully yielded herself to God. Do you fully yield yourself to God? Mary completely accepted the Will of God for her life- utterly abandoning her own will- do you do that or are you still wanting God to sanction what you are already doing? And in accepting God's Will for her life- Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

So just how does a human soul magnify God? We know that a mouth magnifies God by *saying*, "*God is magnificent!*"; by *speaking* His praises. But no one hears a soul. No one, that is but you and God. But I doubt that Mary means she is verbalizing a silent prayer. I think she means that at this moment her soul *feels* the Greatness and Holiness and Mercy of God. And the feeling is primarily one of Joy.

"My spirit rejoices in God!"

A couple of years ago- I preached on **Psalm 69:30**,

"I will magnify God with thanksgiving."

And now we learn the truth that we can also magnify God by rejoicing in Him. And just like I did then, I want to close now with this point: it is good news to learn that we magnify God by rejoicing in Him. It's good news because in **1Corinthians 10:33** and **Romans 1:20** we are *commanded* to glorify or magnify God.

And this command could be a terrible burden if we weren't told that the only way to fulfill it is to relax and be happy in the Mercy of God. That is what magnifies God most.

Let's come and pray

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