

Lessons in Faith

God is **Supernatural**. He works things in an unnatural manner to show forth His **glory**. Since He cannot be seen, He absolutely must be **believed** to work for us. Believing is a “**work**” that He has given us to do. (*St. John 6:29*) God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world through the womb of the virgin Mary. The birth was by His **Will**. God’s Will is always going to be done on earth. (*Ephesians 1:11*)

Mary was a virgin; she became a mother without the aid of a man. This was humanly impossible. Being a virgin was the perfect situation for God to work and show forth His **glory**. The impregnation was accomplished solely by the Holy Spirit. Several lessons can be learned about exercising **Faith** from Mary’s experience because she received exactly what God said.

Lesson 1: God gives us *Thoughts* in words from Him before He “**works**” the *things* that He has prepared for us. His Thoughts generate an “expectation” in our heart for the things. The Angel Gabriel came to Mary with a “**Promise Thought**” from God. She did not know how it would happen nor what it would be like. Mary only knew about child birth between a man and women. Note carefully, all Mary had was a thought sent from God. He had decided that she would bear His Son. (*Isaiah 14:24*) She had to: (1) clearly **understand** the word that the Angel spoke, (2) **accept** the word as true and (3) begin to **expect** the thing to happen.

Lesson 2: The Angel told Mary that she was two important things: (1) blessed and (2) highly favored. (*St. Luke 1:28*) By Faith in Christ, we, too, are blessed as the Seed of Abraham. (*Galatians 3:9*) We are also highly favored. We

Were created inside Christ unto **good** works. (*Ephesians 2:10*) By performing those works, we “obtain” favor from God. (*Proverbs 11:27*) (*Proverbs 12:2*) Through favor, God uses people and circumstances to bless our lives in ways the we do not expect, nor could we make happen ourselves, just like Mary.

Lesson 3: Our **Mind** is key to receiving from God. It must be changed from natural to spiritual to receive. (*Romans 12:2*) **Reason:** the natural Mind “does not” receive the knowledge of God thus causing us to miss our rightful blessings. A “spiritual thought” from God does not fit into a “natural mind.” The natural, or carnal, mind is tied to the natural world and “opposes” God. Spiritual knowledge is **foolishness** to it. (*I Corinthians 2:14*)

Lesson 4: There must be agreement with God for His Power to work. Mary had to *agree* with the Angel, not reject His words. Agreement dictates that we no longer “look” at our present situation. Mary had to now **think** that what the Angel said was true and was coming to pass. (*St. Luke 1:38*) A critical part of the work of the Holy Spirit is to show us “*things*” to **come**. (*St. John 16:13*) Exercising Faith is thinking accordingly as follows:

- **Possession Thinking**—We must think and confess that we have what God has in His **glory** for us. (*St. Mark 11:23*) If we have the thought, we have the thing in spirit form.
- **Expectant Thinking**—Daily, we “look forward,” not at our present situation. We expect to see manifestations of God’s **glory**. Every **Promise** of God “binds” Him to specific performance on our behalf. Our thinking only on His Promises is expectant thinking. (*Psalms 62:5*)