

LIVING BY GOD'S WORD
How Mary's life was changed forever

It is amazing that Mary only spoke twice during Gabriel's visitation.

- The first time Mary spoke she asked – “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” (1:34)
- The second time she spoke she declared – “Be it done to me according to Thy Word.” (1:38)

This visitation would be a LIFE CHANGING experience for Mary and everyone closely associated with her.

We will study our lesson text by the following six homiletical points.

- Mission Sent (apostello / a.p.ind) – 1:26
- Maiden Specific (parthenos mnesteuo / perf.p.ptc / virgin engaged) – 1:27
- Mature believer Salutation (ho aspasmos) – 1:28-30
- Message Son of the most High (huios hupsistos) – 1:31-33
- Maternity Spirit (hagios pneuma) and (dunamis hupsistos) and (huios theos) – 1:34-37
- Motherhood Servant mentality – “Behold, the bonds slave (he doule) of the Lord; be it done to me according to Thy word.” – 1:38

The title of our lesson, LIVING BY GOD'S WORD, comes from Mary's answer for Gabriel to give to God when he returns to heaven.

Mary's answer to Gabriel's announcement that she had “found favor with God” to be chosen as the MOTHER OF MESSIAH was - “Behold, the bonds slave of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word.” (1:38)

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| What do you think these words meant to Mary? | (Luke 1:46-49) |
| What do you think these words meant to Gabriel? | (Luke 1:38) |
| What do you think these words meant to God? | (Matt.1: 20) |

This lesson will study SIX aspects of how Mary's life was changed forever by LIVING BY GOD'S WORD.

1. Don't you find it interesting that none of the believers of the NT are mentioned in Hebrews 11, not even Mary?

Mary was certainly a spiritual mature believer who cycled the word of God by faith well enough to qualify as a member of this elite group (Luke 1:28-30).

For the answer, turn to Heb.11: 39-40 – “none of these received what had been promised.” “God had planned something better for us (church age believers) so that only together with us would they be made perfect (complete).”

“The fulfillment of God's promises to them has now come in Jesus Christ, and their redemption too is now complete in Him.” (NIV, Heb.11:40) (Heb.9:26-28; 10:1-10)

2. Mary was chosen by God to be the mother of the Messiah because she “found (heurisko/ a.a.ind) favor (charis/ grace) with God (to Theos).” (1:30)

“Hail, favored one (charitoo / perf.p.ptc vsf) The Lord is with us.” (1:28)

- Vocative (vsf) reveals Mary’s intimate relationship with the Lord
- Perfect tense reveals that Mary is a spiritual mature believer (Heb.5: 13-14).
- Passive voice reveals that Mary had the spiritual capacity to receive this spiritual assignment.
- Participle reveals Mary’s bondservant mentality – “be it done to me according to your word.”

This was a grace gift without her previous knowledge or merit being required to receive it. However, it did require her acceptance of it by faith – “be it done to me according to your word.” (1:38)

This is a basic doctrinal principle for all of us (Eph.2: 8-9; 2 Cor.5: 7; 1 John 5:4).

3. Gabriel’s salutation reveals Mary’s intimate relationship with the Lord (1:28-30).

Gabriel’s salutation reveals that Mary’s intimate relationship with the Lord is in a place of priority in her life. It was greater than all other relationships in her life even that of her beloved Joseph.

Christmas principle: In a spiritual mature believer, all relationships are secondary to the Lord. Doing God’s will was not risky to Mary (Rom.8: 28).

When you list all the relationships in your present life by importance, where is the Lord?

I didn’t ask where you would like the Lord to be in your relationships. But where He actually is NOW in the reality of your intimate relationships – is the Lord in PRIORITY in these relationships?

4. Gabriel’s message would present a supreme loyalty test to Mary’s relationship commitment to the Lord. It will test whether Mary’s relationship with the Lord is really primary or secondary.

After reading 1 Cor.7: 32-35, did Mary apply this doctrinal principle to her life in this story?

If Mary accepts Gabriel’s message from the Lord, it will change her life forever. The depth of her commitment to her relationship with the Lord will determine how well she adjusts to these changes.

5. Mary was chosen for this divine assignment without applying or debating her qualifications for it.

She wasn’t chosen because she was a virgin. But she was a virgin believer who was favored by God because of her relationship with Him.

Remember that she was chosen because she “found favor with God.” (1:28, 30). She found favor because she was a grace orientated spiritual mature believer.

“For am I now seeking the favor of men or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.” (Gal.1:10)

6. As a spiritual mature, she was tested in the three areas of maturity.

Teachable (1:29) Testable (1:34) Trustful (1:38)

“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them – yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.” (1 Cor.15:10)