

Christmas--A Season of Unshakable Faith

*"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:
The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son,
and will call him Immanuel."*

Isaiah 7:14

The virgin birth of Jesus Christ is one of the great pillars of the Christian faith. For over two thousand years, this miraculous event has separated mankind between faithfulness and skepticism. From a logical standpoint, there is every reason to doubt its authenticity. Why would God bring forth His Son through an unmarried, peasant girl, in a feeding trough filled with hay, in a dark, drafty stable, after an arduous journey on a donkey?

Even Mary was more shocked by the words of the angel Gabriel than his appearance itself and she asked him, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" (Luke 1:34) Gabriel convinces Mary with the words, "For nothing is impossible with God." (v.37) At this moment, Mary's faith becomes unshakable.

Something phenomenal happens in the heart and mind of a person when an unshakable faith in Jesus Christ takes hold. Scripture tells us that "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen". (Heb. 11:1) When everything and everyone tells us that something is impossible, God invariably shows us otherwise.

The depth of faith Mary embraced after this encounter caused her to care little about the cultural condemnation she would surely face. Fears of abandonment by Joseph or being stoned to death for carrying an illegitimate child were well grounded in customary logic. However, Mary clung to faith. Her initial shame became the world's greatest glory.

Great faith is also exemplified in the life and witness of the apostle Luke, author of the most beautiful and detailed account of the birth of Jesus Christ. Luke was an educated man, a physician who would have possessed a scientific foundation that would logically dismiss the virgin birth. Luke's faith in Jesus was unshakable. He had seen Jesus preach and encountered Him on the road to Emmaus after the resurrection. Luke would become a great evangelist of the Good News and serve as the apostle Paul's loyal companion in mission, even when all others had abandoned him.

Luke also wrote the book of Acts, whereby he records in great detail the chronological events of the life, teachings, and ministry of Jesus Christ, providing a firm historical foundation for the faith and hope of Christian believers. Luke clung to faith in the midst of trial, tribulation, and persecution. His scientific foundation prepared for the recording of the world's greatest testimony.

Is your faith unshakable? Has faith in Jesus taken such a hold on your heart and mind that nothing could ever cause you to doubt His love and promises? Has the hope you have in Jesus made you see the possibilities in life when the world screams impossible? Has your life been transformed in such a way that others are drawn to you and want to experience the peace and joy that exudes from your soul?

As you hear the miraculous story of the virgin birth of Jesus this year, may you understand in a fresh new way the seemingly impossible ways of our great and glorious God. May you look for the unexplained and unexpected miracles of the Christmas season. And may your faith become as unshakable as Mary and Luke when you personally encounter the living God through the birth of His precious Son.