



THE DIVINE DELIVERY

December 9-10, 2017
Pastor Joseph Sissac

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Identify and celebrate the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the Christmas Story.
2. Identify and submit to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit as it relates to our Godgiven assignments and callings.
3. FactorPoints

THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN CHRISTMAS

LUKE 1:11-17, 26-56

In the gospel of Luke, the story of Christmas begins with miraculous conception of John the Baptist. One of the most important aspects of the miracle was that John would, ***“be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.”*** We find later that both Zacharias and Elizabeth are filled with the Holy Spirit at different times giving praise and glory to God.

Intersecting this narrative is the angel Gabriel visiting the young, engaged Mary. She was ***“greatly troubled”*** when the angel greeted her saying, ***“O favored one, the Lord is with you!”*** This is most likely because Mary had a very humble opinion of herself and couldn’t comprehend why she would be favored and chosen by God. Gabriel’s next words reached both to the prophetic past and the eternal future, revealing that the promise of God was coalescing in the life (womb) of Mary (Luke 30-33).

When asked how this was possible, Gabriel responded, ***“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power to the Most High will overshadow you...”*** Christmas is depicted in so many ways in our culture and society with a focus on more traditional aspects. Yet according to what we’ve just seen, none of traditional (Biblical) Christmas scenes would’ve been possible without the Holy Spirit.

DIVINE DELIVERY SYSTEM

The Christmas story is full of the unexpected and miraculous. Mary didn’t expect to be chosen give birth to the Messiah. In order for sinless ***“the Son of God”*** to born in the earth, a sinless seed needed to be delivered to Mary. The Holy Spirit provided what mankind could never produce. Without the Holy Spirit, we don’t have a virgin birth.

In similar fashion, as the Lord speaks unexpected assignments into our lives, they are ONLY realized through the power of the Holy Spirit. God routinely chooses seemingly unqualified individuals to accomplish His divine will. The Holy Spirit is the qualifier! Just as He delivered what was needed for Mary and Elizabeth, He will also deliver all that’s needed for you.

DIVINE ENCOURAGEMENT

Before Mary tells her fiancé Joseph of the miraculous conception, the angel of the Lord sent her to Elizabeth who was 6 months pregnant with John the Baptist. The record of their encounter is a divinely orchestrated, Holy Spirit-empowered, will-of-God-confirming praise session. Their Spirit-filled interaction

affirms for us the need to connect with other believers who understand what it's like to walk with God in anticipation of the unexpected and miraculous.

The story of Christmas, the WHOLE story, should inspire us to believe not only in the miraculous birth of Christ, but also that “nothing will be impossible with God” applies to everyone who would believe in His promises and submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

FactorPoints

He's Here - WORSHIP: The Lord is worthy of our worship not only for speaking promises and purpose into our lives but also for providing the Holy Spirit to accomplish it.

He Knows - LEARN: Review Luke chapter 1 as well as the other gospel accounts that reveal the activity of the Holy Spirit in the birth of Christ.

He's Able - SERVE: Know that God's grace is sufficient. Grace that is provided by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Like Mary and Elizabeth, trust the calling of the Lord in your life and serve through the empowerment of Holy Spirit.