



A LETTER FROM YOUR PASTOR: AUGUST 2021

by Lee Shipp

WHEN THE SHAME BECOMES GLORY

“And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore, also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35).

In contemplating the birth of Jesus ... pondering the miracle of His incarnation: I marvel how God moved upon Mary by the Holy Ghost and placed within her the life of Jesus – the Word eternal, living inside of her being. I am honestly stunned by the glory of God.

For nine months what she carried would be so vague. The only thing she could do was hide everything in her heart. It was beyond her ability to explain what God was doing inside of her life. It was beyond her ability to even grasp it herself, she could make no sense of it, but she could feel it; it had her!

She could not escape what God was doing. Wherever she would run, wherever she would go, whatever she would do, she could not escape this move of God. And because it was the Eternal Word that was placed inside of her, there came a point in her life when she could not hide it. The thing she hid in her heart now became very evident in her life. For that Word began to manifest Himself through her as well as in her.

Only when the fullness of time had come, when the fullness of life was accomplished – was that which was in her allowed to come forth and affect the nations. But not prematurely would His life come forth. Not until that life of Christ had been fully formed first within her, would that life of Christ come forth from her. But notice; it wasn't a mature Christ that came out of her – He was a baby! But He was fully formed and able to be sustained in a world that would seek His demise. Not until the fullness of His time would He be born; only then would that life of Christ come forth from her – to be manifested among the nations as a light to the world and the Savior of mankind. And though He was an infant, He was Jesus!

Many of you reading this have experienced the Holy Ghost moving within your life. Obviously, this word in you is not the same as Mary's Word in her. Nonetheless, the word has been placed within you. You cannot explain it, you cannot grasp it, you cannot define it, and you cannot get your mind around it.

As Mary lived nine months in public shame and humility, even into her adult life, some also misunderstand you in the midst of your own confusion as to what God is doing with you. So much in life does not make sense. Obviously, there is so much about you that does not make sense. And the thing is, you can't explain it because you can't get your mind around it. Like Mary, you just hide it in your heart.

But that life will grow, that word will grow, it will increase and before long it will begin to manifest itself in your life. Then, in the fullness of time, when Jesus is formed within you, will that life come forth to affect the nations. But it is the Life of God that is to come forth: not theologies, not doctrines, not right or wrong – but Jesus Himself: His life, His personality formed within you. And not until He is fully formed within you will He be able to come forth from you to affect the nations.

DON'T ABORT YOUR LIFE

Beloved, labor to bring forth this life. Go through the agony, the confusion. Let His life grow in you. Let His word take hold of you. Believe in the power of the Holy Spirit to do this work. To bring forth this life into the world you need more than a move of the Spirit. You need anticipation that the Spirit will do it. Anticipate that the confusion of your life will become clear, that the pain of your life will become prosperous, and that the shame of your life will become Glory! Amen!

The Holy Ghost came upon Mary. He overshadowed her and changed the world! The answer to everything in your life, your family, your society, and the world is that the Holy Spirit would overshadow you. That He would come upon you with power – putting the Word of God into your being, to birth out from you things only His Spirit could produce. Imagine the Holy Spirit bringing something out of you that will turn the world upside-down. Can you believe it? Is He not able?

You see, so many can only believe that their effectiveness for God is based on their education, their experience, and their tenure in being a Christian.

“YOU MUST TRUST WHAT GOD IS DOING WITH YOU.”

They mistakenly consider that the ministers of God's Kingdom are those that man, institutions, and time have produced. But God considers His ministers to be those individuals in whom the Life of His Son is being formed; those in whom Jesus has become so great that He comes forth from them into their world.

YOU MUST CONSENT TO GOD'S WILL

This anointing, the overshadowing of the Holy Ghost, is not automatic. Mary had to consent, “Be it done unto me according to Your Word.” You must live by faith on this new basis of God's dealings with you or you will miss the divine life intended.

Oh, how wonderful is the Holy Ghost to come and put the Life of God into our being! In Genesis 1, He moved upon the desolate earth and in six days brought forth the beauty of creation. If we will, the Holy Ghost will come upon us and impregnate us with the purposes of God: He will fill us; He will give life to our spirit.

Whatever we have acquired, the knowledge we have learned, or qualifications we have gained means nothing to the Work of God if it is has not come to us by the Holy Ghost. God is pleased with His Son. The only value of our lives and service is the measure that we have allowed the Holy Ghost to form Jesus within us.

*Everything That Is Eternal Is The Work Of The Holy Spirit.
Every Relevant Work Of God Is By The Spirit.
Every Miracle Is By The Spirit.*

*Every Impossibility Becomes Possible By The Spirit.
He Is The Creator Of Eternal Conditions.
He Is The Creator Of The Conditions Of Revival.
He Is The Witness Of The Lord Jesus Christ.
He Is The Power Of Resurrection, which means: He alone has the power to restore the life that men and sin took from you. He can raise you from despair ... release you from prison ... bring you back from death and defeat all your enemies! He can anoint you. He alone knows your creative purposes and how to fulfill them.*

BEWARE OF MEN

Because our lives are a work of the Spirit, and He alone knows what He is doing, and He alone can sustain that work within us, and He alone can produce the purposes of God through us, we must beware of man and ourselves!

Who could have counseled Mary? What human had experience with a pregnant virgin to help her understand what was going on in her life? Mary had to press in close to the Lord and trust Him.

The angel said the Holy Ghost was going to do something with her. Now she must wait in faith for Him to perform His Word. Nobody, not even you, understands the full purposes of God for your life. You must trust what God is doing with you. Christian counsel is beneficial, but sometimes nobody can explain what God is doing with you. You must hold that Word inside of you until it is time for the birth! Who can trace the way of God ... his path is in the sea? "Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known" (Psalms 77: 19). Have Faith in the Lord, and if you consent to His desires for your life then get ready - you are about to have a life-changing experience.

DON'T ALLOW PEOPLE WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR DESTINY TO NAME YOU

Mary did not understand everything about Jesus. She did not grasp the full significance of His life. She could not possibly comprehend all He would suffer and accomplish. God alone knew these things; therefore, God named His Son. God gave Jesus His name because His name would signify His destiny!

The pages of history are marked by men and women who have learned their God-given names. What is so interesting is how many new names God will have to give out in Glory, possibly signifying how many people lived the destiny that others set for them, but not the destiny God had desired.

Just consider the names given to Elisha: a farmer, a servant to the prophet. Never was he regarded as more than someone inferior to the great men of his day. But Elisha knew what God put in him. He held that in faith knowing his day would come. All those years behind the oxen and caring for the prophet were the years in which the Lord was producing something within him, and he knew this life would come forth in time.

DON'T ALLOW YOUR CONFUSION AND GOD'S SILENCE TO DEFINE YOUR DESTINY

Have Faith in the Lord and if you consent to His desires for your life then don't allow your confusion and God's silence to define your destiny.

There are times when the only thing you can do is stand on the last thing you know you heard from God. What do you do in the confusion? Well, if you move on your own, outside of God's word already given to you, then you can get the faith beat out of you.

Satan will come to you in this confusion and tell you what a loser you are. Satan will suggest, "You are crazy. Did God say?" Satan will take the life out of you. He will seek to abort what God is creating. Satan will fix your eyes upon present-day life.

If Satan is telling you, "Did God say?" Then it is because God probably did say! Also, if Satan is trying to discourage you and make you feel worthless then it is a good sign that something supernatural is happening in you. You see, most of the time Satan wants you to live in pride so God will resist you. But when you are feeling worthless, unworthy of God, and disqualified for the Lord's purposes in your life, then that is probably the work of the Holy Ghost, not Satan. It is the work of the Holy Spirit because He is causing you to decrease that the Lord Jesus' life in you might increase. He is humbling you and making you desperate for the Lord's anointing in your life.

Another alternative when you are in a season of confusion is to live by the Word of God, like Mary. Not only did she hide these things in her heart ... she pondered them! You must preach to yourself and preach faith to yourself - refuse to look or listen to anything that will weaken your faith. Furthermore, stand and do the last thing you know God told you to do. Don't live by what you see, the place you are in, or the conditions that seem inescapable because what you see is not accurate, where you are is not permanent, and your conditions are not a hindrance to the victory.

THERE WILL COME A TIME WHEN THE PAIN IS UNBEARABLE AND YOU HAVE TO PUSH THAT LIFE OUT

Have faith in the Lord and if you consent to His desires for your life then there will come a time when the pain is unbearable, and you have to push that life out.

Nobody else can give birth to the life in you but you! God put that life in you, and you must exercise the faith to live the life God has called you to. The men and women, who by faith acted upon God's will, are the ones who have affected the generations for God.

If you ever wonder how in the world God could use you to change the world then take a look at those in the Bible who pushed out the life God put within them. One great example is Peter. Who is that preaching on Pentecost? Who is accusing the people of denying Jesus? The very one who denied Him! PETER! When the Holy Ghost reached into that room for a preacher, he didn't grab John ... He grabbed PETER, the denier!

Time would fail me to mention David, Moses, Sarah, Abraham, and innumerable others who throughout history simply believed God could do something through their worthless lives. If they lived for people, then they would have been swallowed up in history. But because they lived for God then they were the ones who made history!

Wherever you are, whatever you have done, regardless of your feelings or the devil's condemnations - get up, get over it, and get to Jesus. Let God put something inside of you. Start now! Live for God. Don't live by what you see or feel, live by the God you know! Don't live by what people have called you: worthless, stupid, fake, hypocrite. What is the name that God wants to give you? What is the destiny God has for you? I can assure you of this; it will constitute the fact that you are mighty in Christ and more than a conqueror. No longer will you be the defeated and cast-down poor soul everybody feels sorry for. You will be God's! Your life will affect the nations!