



## Overcoming Fear Series

### GOD CAN USE YOU TOO! – Pastor Alton Trimble Bible Study & Life Groups: Wednesday, June 12, 2019

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#### **Foundational Scripture:**

Luke 1:26-55 (NKJV)

*Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" <sup>29</sup> But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup> Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup> And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For with God nothing will be impossible." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. <sup>39</sup> Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, <sup>40</sup> and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. <sup>45</sup> Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord." <sup>46</sup> And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. <sup>48</sup> For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. <sup>49</sup> For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. <sup>50</sup> And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. <sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, <sup>55</sup> As He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever."*

II Chronicles 16:9 "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth that He may show Himself strong in the behalf of those whose hearts are perfect toward Him."

**Imagine some of the possible fears Mary could have had:**

- The fear of criticism.
- The fear of the supernatural.
- The fear of inadequacy.
- The fear of change.

**How God can use you in spite of your fears:**

**1. DEVELOP AN AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE.**

*"The angel came to Mary and said, 'Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you.'"*

v. 30 *"Don't be afraid, Mary; God loves you dearly!"*

Joshua in 1:9: *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*

Isaiah 41:10: *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Deuteronomy 31:6: *Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.*

Matthew 28:20: *...and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age*

Proverbs 14:26 (Good News) *"Reverence for the Lord gives confidence and security."*

**2. DEVOTE MYSELF TO GOD'S PLAN.**

v. 31-33. *"You will be with child and give birth to a son. And you're to give Him the name Jesus and He will be great and be called the Son of the Most High."*

v. 38 *"Mary said, 'I am the Lord's servant. I am willing to do whatever He wants. May everything you said come true.'"*

**It shows the following attitudes:**

- i. It shows an attitude of complete availability.
- ii. It's not just acceptance but she's eager to do God's will.
- iii. Attitude of faith.

**3. YOU MUST DELIGHT IN GOD'S POWER.**

v. 34 "Mary said to the angel, 'I am a virgin. How can this be?' The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest on you. For there is nothing God can't do!'"

v. 46-55 Mary writes a song. Her reaction to all this news which would scare the rest of us was to write a song of praise.

**4. DEPEND ON GOD'S PROMISES.**

***DIVINE PROMISES***

a. Brighter Days

PSALM 30:5 *For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.*

b. Deliverance

PSALM 34:19-20 *Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all. He guards all his bones; not one of them is broken.*

c. Divine Care in sickness

PSALM 41:3 *The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed.*

d. Comfort of God's Presence

ISAIAH 43:2 *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.*

- e. All things work to the Believer's Good.

ROMANS 8:28 *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

- f. Answer to your call

PSALM 50:15 *Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.*

- g. Answer to prayer

MARK 11:24 *Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."*

v. 45 Elizabeth, her cousin, says to Mary "You believed that God would do what He said; that is why He has given you this wonderful blessing."

II Chronicles 16:9 says "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth... [He's looking for people] ...that He may show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are perfect toward Him."

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What's your basic position to date related to God using you?
  - Please explain.
2. Read II Chronicles 16:9 and answer the question; Has God ever found you and showed himself strong on your behalf?
  - Please explain.
3. Which of the four areas of fear have been most evident in your life?
  - What evidence do you have of that?
4. What can you do to enhance your awareness of God's presence in your life?
  - Please list & discuss.