

Principles of Birth

The Christmas story contains six wonderful principles of birth. They are true guides whenever God does a new thing. Luke 1 : 26 – 38 deserves our meditation because the Holy spirit surrounds the Incarnation. The third person of the trinity is intimately involved in everything God purposes on earth. When God moves he highlights these six principles and brings a glorious seventh, the inner witness, to prove that the new holy thing is of God.

1. God moves on the ground of spiritual virginity

The intervention of the heavenly messenger came to a virgin. Repentance unto the forgiveness of sins remains the only route to spiritual virginity. Preachers today minimize sin, diminish the word, and omit the severity of God. New things filled with the glory of God cannot emerge upon the wreck of the old man. Too often the new creation is grafted onto the old man which is still growing corrupt even after the new birth. Note the tense in **Ephesians 4 : 22** :

*“.....that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man, that **GROWS CORRUPT** according to the deceitful lusts.”*

According to = dominated or conquered by. The lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes contribute to encourage the sin-spirit of the old man. We actively put off by switching off TV, by walking away from gossip, by refusing to listen to innuendo. This daily discipleship helps to preserve spiritual virginity. The strong desire of lust can dominate the new creation and activate the old man. Carnal Christianity does not have the inner power to bring God’s new thing to birth. When we put on the new man and see the new creation realities we are GOOD ENOUGH to stand in His holy presence by the blood of Jesus Christ. Spiritual virginity means maintaining our position of privilege that the blood has bought for us, by putting on the new and stripping off the old man! All lies, fears, and all the bombardment of the enemy must be driven off our minds. Renewal of mind is the activity for believers who accept their virginity. Righteousness by the blood of Jesus is the forever foundation of our position in Christ. We work out what He worked in by continuing to renew our mind by the word of God, and purify our hearts by the blood of Christ.

2. God works on the basis of grace

*“And having come in, the angel said to her,
‘Rejoice, highly favoured one, the Lord
is with you; blessed are you among women!’”
(Luke 1 : 28)*

The word ‘favour’ means grace. God never saves, heals and delivers those who think they deserve it. The mind of pride always produces the leprosy of sin. (Check Uzziah’s story). Repentance comes before grace. God only lives

in two places : highest heaven and a broken, contrite heart. Grace connects heaven with humility when we admit our spiritual bankruptcy. Grace is never merely a cover-up job, but will teach us to deny ungodliness, and worldly lusts. Be in a place to receive favour, the gospel of the grace of the glory of God. God never gives you anything on a plate. He chose Mary, a submissive, young virgin who knew the presence of God. Grace blesses us with a power from on high to communicate the gospel. The evidence of grace is the anointing of the Spirit. When you are born again you are highly favoured and blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus. What a position grace puts us in! However, faith then determines how much grace we can draw on. We are saved by grace through faith. Faith is not alone when we are Christians – it has works. Grace is never the license to do what I want to do, but the liberty to do what Jesus tells me to do. Grace is God’s handshake from heaven wanting our hand of faith to slip into his! Mary’s hand finally touched and gripped the grace of God when she obeyed :

“Then Mary said, ‘Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.’” ***(Luke 1 : 38)***

Consent. Submission of heart. Yielded to the grace of the Holy Spirit’s operation.

3. God builds faith by His proceeding word

“Then the angel SAID TO HER, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.’” ***(Luke 1 : 30)***

The personal, anointed word to our hearts enlarges our capacity to believe for God’s new thing. God enters our visible world with an invisible seed to eradicate the lies we believe about ourselves. Don’t fear is found 365 times in the Bible, everyday for a year. God wants you to have delivered brains, saved thinking, a new core belief system. How a man thinks, so is he. Christianity is not a mental religion, however, our thinking and perceptions are based on revelation. We don’t live from the attics of our minds, but the basement of our spirits. The seed of God impregnates our spirits when the anointing sends it forth! Faith comes by the anointed word. Churches move into stagnation when there is no anointing on the teaching and preaching. The first sense of call in a God-sent preacher remains total inadequacy for the task. The word preached and taught must be alive to do spiritual surgery in dividing soul from spirit. The listeners must be prepared to change their belief system, from cold, critical intellectualism to the passion that revelation from the heart alone produces. The angel spoke to Mary’s heart: consoling fears and calling into being the prospect of carrying the Son of God for nine months in her womb. God wants to speak great things into your spirit, because now Christ is IN US! Deliverance brings the Kingdom of God within. The word of deliverance precedes the prophetic word! Without “do not fear” we cannot have yes to the years God has planned for us.

When you listen to the anointed word take a notebook, write those things down that the Spirit ministers to you. Fix the revelation! Then pray it into your heart. Soon you will be pregnant.

4. God underlines the priority of “Jesus is Lord”

He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. In the birthing of the supernatural power of God Jesus must be Lord before He is Christ. (See Acts 2 : 36). He REIGNS as LORD before He RAINS as the ANOINTED ONE. In Luke 1 Zacharias had to come to obedience (verse 63) by writing down his son’s name should be John. Then he was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied (verse 67 – 79). Lordship comes before the anointing. The Pharisees would not have this Man rule over them. (Luke 19 : 27). All religious people seek to execute their own will and use God’s word to back up their rebellion. The typical example is King Saul who ended up with Satan as his Lord. Even in ministries today that appear charismatic may be operating in a wrong spirit that refuses the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name, cast out demons in your name...”
(Matthew 7 : 21,22)

The Lord Jesus replies He NEVER knew them. The Jewish exorcists in Acts 19 fulfil this stern warning – they used the right Jesus and the right name, but did not have the power of the Holy Spirit. There are wolves in charismatic sheep’s clothing today. When we do signs in His name the key to being true servants is, “the Lord working with them.” (Mark 16:20). This signifies fellowship of inner knowing.

If Jesus is to be Lord over our broken Jacob-like lives we have to first draw up lines of communication with an indwelling Lord. Are we led by the Spirit into fellowship with Jesus? Do we obey revelation? Objectively, the Lordship of Jesus relates to the omnipotent sovereignty of God. He is Lord of all in heaven and earth. Only as we are healed within are we able to trust his rulership in and over our lives. It will take the millenium for Jesus to be deeply, truly Lord of our lives. Even in the thousand year reign of Christ some refuse His Lordship and join the satanic rebellion, at the very end. Here and now, the more Jesus is practically Lord, the deeper and greater new thing God will work through us.

5. The Holy Spirit is God’s ‘How He does it.’

God’s “How He does the new thing” is the Holy Spirit (Luke 1 : 35). The Holy Spirit intercession links the Lordship of God in the world to the Lordship of Jesus Christ within the believer. The third person of the trinity comes together with us AGAINST the lack of insight and lack of foresight that as humans we so often display. In Romans 8 : 26 – 28 the connection is between

this holy activity within the Spirit-filled believer and all things working together for good for those who love Jesus and are called to the Father's purpose. Intercession encourages sensitivity to the sovereignty of God. The word of God will return to us void without our active involvement in faith and intercession. The vitality of the Holy Spirit makes the word of God a creative force for those who believe. Evangelicals who tend to live out of the attic of their minds cannot believe for the reality of the creative word that is Spirit-born as a divine seed into the heart. The Spirit of God creates an environment for the spoken word to be creative. We see this principle in Genesis 1: 2,3. He incubates, prepares a climate for the seed of the word of God to create instantly. In Luke 2: 25 – 27 we see three operations of the spirit in creative prophetic power.

- a) invocation of clothing (v.25) ;
- b) inspiration of revealing (v.26) ;
- c) intuition of leading (v.27) ;

What are we believing and knowing God will allow us to do for him before the return of our Lord Jesus Christ? Have you revelation in the Spirit concerning His purposes? The Holy Spirit is God's "How?" but He cannot reveal and clothe and lead if sin and self continue to have their way in our lives. The quenching and grieving of the Spirit kills the new things God desires for you. If we go on sowing to the flesh corruption follows. How many individuals and churches are in a rut of following dry routine and fail to go on sowing to the Spirit so they live life to the maximum?

6. God looks for the obedient, submissive heart

“Let it be to me, according to your word.” (Luke 1 : 38)

According to means dominated by, and conquered by. The word of Gabriel was Lord of her young heart. In the moment of obedience there was the holy conception. When the servants at the wedding feast at Cana obeyed the words of Jesus, the water supernaturally became wine – Our obedience completes His miracle. Let it be to me as I am dominated by the words of the new covenant. The word of the Lord is YES (it's true) and AMEN (a creative force) to the submissive heart. God loved David because he unquestioningly obeyed. Saul kept using the word of God to back up his own agenda, and so his heart ultimately strayed into the occult. Listen again to Simeon's prophecy to Mary in **Luke 2 : 34, 35** :

“Behold this child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own heart also), that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.”

The issue of obedience goes down to the basement of our heart condition. People fall by disobedience or rise through obedience in relation to the words of Jesus. The obedient life will be spoken against because persecution is against the word itself (see Mark 4 : 17). The word reveals our inner thoughts. (Hebrews 4 : 12). The word will finally judge our lives. (John 12 : 48). A

life of obedience brings unfettered blessings to most who come into contact with us. As Saul, we will play the fool if disobedience marks our walk.

The six principles of birth lead to the wonder of the inner witness. Mary had gone up to the hill country to enjoy sweet fellowship with her cousin. John the Baptist leaped in Elizabeth's womb at the greeting of Mary. There should be this inner witness when true believers meet in His name and under the precious anointing of the Spirit. When God is birthing a new thing the inner registration of the Spirit becomes an essential accompaniment. Without it, we should not move forward. Without it, there is no blessing from the Lord.

When Jesus came into the world, the Father spoke to his spirit in
Hebrews 1 : 5 :

*“You are my Son,
Today I have begotten you.”*

And in **Hebrews 10 : 5** the son spoke back : -

*“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you
have prepared for Me.”*

We, too, must live in the internal regions of our human spirit, where the Holy Spirit lives in us.

Give yourself the Lord Jesus. Surrender and abandon your desires to His Lordship. Travail in the Holy Spirit given prayers. Become addicted to the word of God and prayer like the apostles of old. Only then can God take us out of the stagnant rut of observances into the elixir of eternal life and into His gracious new designs.

As soon as Zion (the church) travailed (did the work of prayer), she gave birth to her children.