



# RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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*Paul and Gretel Haglin*

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

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## Letters of Faith

December 2013

**“...although He existed in the form of God,  
(Jesus) did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself,  
taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.”**

Philippians 2:6–7 NASB

Merry Christmas to all our Dearly Beloved,

The true miracle of the first “Christmas” was initiated nine months earlier when all of heaven was poised on tiptoes and listened intently to hear Mary say: “*Yes, Lord, I’ll be your earthly mom.*” Jesus was divinely conceived in a virgin’s womb as a man-child. He was not only willing to be made **“in the likeness of men,”** He was willing to be made like man is made: nine months of growth and nurture floating and bumping about, feeling the anxiety of His mother in her womb, and then finally painfully born helpless, and totally dependent on others for provision, affection, and protection.

The two greatest miracles of all time are that Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, was willing to let His only Son suffer such abasement, and that His Son, Jesus, was willing to submit to it! If you were God, would you entrust your beloved son to the care and nurture and protection of one of us—in this sin-filled world? Hardly! But God did—with love, with a purpose, and with angelic oversight—so we could be reconciled to Him!

No wonder the angels shouted, **“Glory to God in the highest...”** (Luke 2:14). God had worked such spiritual yieldedness in Mary’s heart that she could accept an unheard of call on her life, believe a Word that had never before been heard by mankind, and receive a creative touch from God that had never even been imagined except by one prophet centuries before.

If she had responded to this visitation by an angel like some of our fellow Christians are responding to the present visitations of the Holy Spirit today, she might have said: “You’ll have to give me some chapters and verses and historical precedents before I can accept what you are saying as coming from God!” Even though she knew what Isaiah 7:14 says prophetically about the coming Messiah, only by God’s mighty Grace could she have connected that with what was being said to her personally by this angelic being.

Thanks be to God, Mary did! She didn’t challenge or doubt or analyze Gabriel’s statement to her. He spoke with the heaven-bestowed authority of the chief angel who stood close to God, and he was so permeated with the presence of God that his appearance caused most humans to tremble with fear and fall prostrate before him.

Although Mary **“...was greatly troubled...”** (Luke 1:29 NASB) by Gabriel’s greeting, she bravely and humbly listened to his awesome declaration and dared simply to enquire, **“How can this be, since I am a virgin?”** (Luke 1:34) But Gabriel did not take offense as he had with Zacharias! (ref. Luke 1:18-20) Instead, he gently revealed to Mary a secret which was a special sign for her: her older relative Elizabeth, long past child-bearing age, was already pregnant because she and Zacharias had experienced a miraculous conception of a child in her barren womb. Gabriel

reassured Mary's startled but open heart as he reminded her: **"For nothing** (literally: not any Word) **will be impossible with God."** (Luke 1:37)

Mary accepted the news that there had been a supernatural touch of God deep within Elizabeth as a sign that this angelic experience she was having really was of God, and that God could do the same kind of deep work within her that He had done in Elizabeth, even without a physical husband. She declared herself open to receive the Word given to her from the angel Gabriel, and in so doing received the greatest blessing ever accorded a human being: the privilege of bearing a divinely conceived child—the incarnate Son of God.

The way to man's redemption was settled at that moment in time when Mary believed, and received, and conceived!

In the fullness of human time that followed (nine months), Mary gave birth to Jesus, and He began His 33-year path to the cross—the place of salvation for all who believe—as a helpless baby boy in some of the most humble and dangerous surroundings imaginable.

Beloved, the lesson for us in this story is that God is doing this "Christmas Conception" miracle in the depths of His saints today! He is penetrating deep into the hidden, private, and shut away part of our being and planting new hope and faith and life in us just as surely as He brought Life into the sealed up virgin womb of Mary. Some call it Sozo (ref. Rom. 10:9), some call it transformation or simply spiritual maturity, but all who openly receive it call it, **"...His wonderful deeds among all the peoples."** (Psa. 96:3)

The "new Jesus life" He is implanting and birthing deep in us is a fuller revelation of the dimensions of His Son, Jesus, and a closer partnering with the Holy Spirit than we have ever experienced. It is a new power, a new holiness, a new unity in the Spirit, and a new obedience to the Father's will that the Body of Christ has not walked in corporately since the earliest days of the Holy Spirit's anointing that started at Pentecost. This "new Jesus life" is available to each of us who will, like Mary, yield fully to God and declare: **"I am your bond-servant [and friend], O God. Be it done to me according to Your will!"** (insertion added)

We don't all have wild and strange experiences when we receive this new dimension of God, and we most certainly don't want to challenge, or analyze, or criticize someone else's "experience" with God if they do. We just have to hungrily seek His love's unique impartation deep in our own secret inner being, eagerly receive the insertion of fresh and new divine life, and then nurture and protect it and let Him bring it to full term in our lives for His glory according to His timetable.

When we embrace such a new touch or Word, we will surely experience from our Lord the same blessing Mary received from Elizabeth: **"...blessed is (are) she (you) who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her (you) by the Lord."** (Luke 1:45) Or as my most blessed, departed friend Campbell McAlpine once said to me: *"God is not a tease! What He said He will do, He will do!"*

When we believe and receive that we will experience the fulfillment of what is spoken to us by the Holy Spirit, we will all walk together in "new Jesus life" as messengers, models, teachers, warriors, ambassadors, and disciples of Jesus—Who is The Life—being continuously more fully transformed into His very likeness, and preparing the way for His coming again in His Glory all around the world.

Our prayer for you as you prepare to experience this once-a-year, worldwide, corporate celebration of Christ's birth in human flesh known as "Christmas," is that you will open yourself to receive a special Word and ministry-touch by the Holy Spirit from "the Birthday Boy" Himself, Jesus, and that you will nurture it and will meditate upon it and hold it close in your heart of hearts until it bursts forth full term as "new Jesus life" in your life for your Father's glory.

We can then forget the misbegotten slogans such as “the year of evangelism,” or “the time of the prophets,” or “the new apostolic era,” or the “frightening end time days,” and all of the other well-intentioned, man-made expressions for what we think is important in God’s timetable, and let Him lead us as a renewed, reinvigorated, revived, and re-empowered Body of Christ out into this dark and perverse generation as a bright and piercing spotlight of Life to show THE WAY to God’s righteousness, peace, and joy—that is, His Kingdom, and the: **“...peace among men with whom He is pleased”** (Luke 2:14).

That is simply what is properly called “Christianity.” That is what turned the world upside-down—or right-side-up from our spiritual viewpoint!

Have a most blessed celebration of God’s gift to us of His precious Son, Jesus! As you share love gifts with each other, boldly dare to ask for and expect to receive a gift from your Heavenly Father—a new dimension of the Life of Jesus Christ in your own life! Then cherish, nurture, and deploy your gift as you embrace the Giver!

Let us corporately celebrate Christmas as: **“THIS is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.”** (Psalm 118:24 NLT)

Holy Holiday Hugs!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul & Janet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.