



## A LABOR of LOVE

Daddy's favorite joke was that he always knew when Mama was pregnant. He came home from a long day and say, "Hey, Honey, how was your day?" And she'd say, "GET OFF MY BACK."

Let me tell you about a show I saw, called "I didn't Know I was pregnant." I sat there watching with my hand over my mouth, as this 40 year old lady was telling her story. She had resigned herself to the fact that she would never have children and she had never known anyone pregnant, so she *really* didn't know what to expect. So, when her body's changes, she doesn't notice. Amazingly, the whole nine months, her clothes always fit. The only noticeable signs she experienced, was these unexplainable DESIRES, weird cravings, sleeplessness, irritability, and fatigue. She never even felt the baby move, she thought it was gas. She was expecting a baby and didn't even know it. She was expecting, yet had no expectations.

So, one night, she starts labor, & before long, her husband calls 911 because she couldn't stop screaming. They get to the hospital; she's holding her stomach, bending over in intense labor pains, & they put her in a hospital bed, and tell her she is in labor. She says, "I'm not pregnant!"

Suddenly she screamed, "Ya'll! Something just came out!" And sure enough, the nurse cut her jeans off, & there is her little baby girl in there, already born.

Then one, who also didn't know, delivered her baby boy, then asked them to take him away so she could decide if she wanted him or not. They sent the poor baby away to foster care for 2 days. I was so relieved when they returned the baby boy to her arms and she decided to keep him. Here a nameless baby stayed with strangers, until its shocked Mother wanted him.

**This show reminds me of all of us spiritually. We've been in this church so long, we have resigned ourselves to the fact that we are never going to grow. "Expecting" is also another term for pregnancy. Well, spiritually, we expect a lot of things, and sometimes we have these unexplainable DESIRES, surprises, spiritual things that make us sick, restless, tired, even odd pains, irritability, and strange spiritual cravings in our lives, yet we don't even realize we are expecting. Do we?**

**Ignorance is not bliss. How wonderful it would be if we read God's Word, and learn that He is bringing others to know him, and we can Desire & prepare for, name, love and care for the young he is birthing into His Church. We forget about that, but God has not forgotten and we need reminding that's what we're here for or he would have already brought us home w/ Him.**

Isaiah 49:<sup>4</sup>Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God.

<sup>5</sup>And now, saith the LORD that **formed me from the womb to be his servant**, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall **I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.**

<sup>14</sup>But Zion(we) said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me.

<sup>15</sup>Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will **I not forget thee.**

**God's Word gives Life. It's as beautiful, natural, painless, and *expected* as when the Lord breathed into Adam. it was a beautiful thing. A Labor of Love**

**Nicodemus asked how can a man be born again, can he enter again into his mother's womb? But Jesus responded by saying that which is born of the flesh is flesh, but that**

**which is born of the spirit is spirit. The flesh is everything we do without God's help.**

**John 3:16. Describes the labor pains and God's pain. God so loved....that he gave...that whosoever believeth should have eternal..... life. Natural, painless, expectation of wonderful life. Jesus said ye Must be born again.**

**God's Labor of Love.**

Barrenness was considered a curse in the bible. Children were considered a blessing. They carry the family name. Sarah, Rebecca and Rachael all 3 were barren until God intervened and made them the mothers of the Israelite nation. Genesis 30 <sup>1</sup>And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die. then When God gave Rachael Joseph in Gen 30:23, she said "God hath taken away my reproach."

**All these women prayed for a baby to hold. They prayed for God to OPEN UP THEIR WOMB. We should too, & for God to love them through us when they are born. We too, can cry GIVE US CHILDREN LEST WE DIE! And let's LOVE them all when He does!**

**Isaiah 11:6 says *little child shall lead them.* Carter kissed his baby brother the first time he saw him and nobody told him to do it. I think that's how God wants us to be. It was as if he was expecting someone to love. And he still runs over and loves on him every chance he gets.**

**Hebrews 1:<sup>3</sup> God said, this day have I begotten thee?**

**And that brought God his deepest joy. Did you know the thing that brought the pain can bring the deepest joy? What a Discovery! I remember being so happy when Beth was born that I forgot about my own pain. I remember me needing to hold her as bad as she needed me to.**

**That's what God wants do to here in His Church.**

**John 16:20 your sorrow shall be turned into joy.**

**<sup>21</sup>A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.**

**<sup>22</sup>And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.**

Nobody can keep Carter from loving Matthew. And nothing can keep God from growing His church. Let's just ask Him to please allow us to be a part of what He is doing in this world. Ask Him to open our womb, and bring forth, make us fruitful and multiply us for His Glory.

So the next time you have strange spiritual Desires, cravings, pains, and maybe even thinking you don't know what's going on....just remember this little lesson. Maybe things won't be so bad after all. And Maybe God is doing something really wonderful after all. God wants to DELIGHT US with DEEP JOY.

A Labor of Love, knowing the bigger the investment, the greater the return.

Francine Smith Nov 5, 2009