



Merry Christmas

AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR

It is again the time of the year that people around the world prepare for Christmas, enjoy the holidays and get ready to step into the new year. As I look back, I can only marvel at everything that has happened during the last year, and quote the famous words of Mary: *“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior... For He who is mighty has done great things for me”*. (Luke 1:46-47, 49a NKJV). Before I go into the details, let's quickly look at Mary's situation together. A lot had happened before she uttered these words. An angel had appeared to this very young, unassuming virgin girl, chosen by God and told her that she shall give birth to the long-awaited Messiah, the Son of God.

Now imagine if this would have happened to you or me. Our response would have probably been the same as Mary's: *“But how can this happen? I am a virgin.”* (Luke 1:34 NLT) Just as anyone of us, she was puzzled and couldn't see how something like that could ever happen. All her circumstances spoke against it. After all, she was engaged to be married to Joseph - and last but not least - we're talking about something of totally supernatural nature here, an outright miracle. So she asked a completely valid and reasonable question: **“HOW CAN IT BE?”**

And here comes the very simple answer. The angel said, *“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you... For with God nothing will be impossible.”* (Luke 1:35, 37 NKJV) Unquestionably, what the Holy Spirit did in and through Mary will forever remain unique and beyond comparison; God Himself became man and was born of this young woman. What a marvelous mystery! Yet, what the angel said to Mary, in a sense holds an infallible truth for each one of us still today, no matter where we're at in our life, no matter what our needs are, no matter what obstacles and challenges we're facing. The same Holy Spirit who overshadowed Mary and birthed this miracle in her life, is there for you in your situation. He wants to birth miracles in your life so that everything He has spoken over you can come to pass. He has not changed. Maybe God has talked to you about something you should give birth to.

But it sounds so beyond all your capacities, resources, circumstances, the connections you have, the knowledge and skills you possess at the moment, and just a thought of it has the power to paralyze you.

Deep within you know, you should trust God, launch out and just do it, but this one question stands before you as a wall that you cannot overcome: **„HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?”**

Let me encourage you today. When God tells you to do something, He will accomplish it. Surely he needs us to say “yes” and make ourselves available for the miracle to take place, but as we do that, He will take care of the rest. The Holy Spirit is God's supernatural Spirit. When this power overshadows you and you choose to trust Him, miracles happen, impossibilities bow down. And Jesus, who deserves all the glory will have all the credit. That keeps us humble and dependent on Him, which in turn is like a fertile soil for more miracles to be born. When you yield to being the channel of the Holy Spirit for a miracle He wants to do, He will open the right doors for you, bring the resources you need and empower you for the task. All we need to do is to say what Mary said: *“Let it be to me according to your word.”* (Luke 1:38 NKJV) Not according to our plans, agendas or wishes, not according to our circumstances, finances, social status or connections, not even according to what we deserve or do not deserve. It's all based on His overwhelming grace. And this incredible grace is available for all of us again this Christmas and as we approach the new year.

You are God's highly favored one, whom He wants to bless and use as a channel of a miracle. Mary yielded to the call God had for her even though in those days, it was an unheard-of thing to be pregnant outside a wedlock, let alone announce you're a virgin and the child you're carrying, is the Son of God. All this brought a great disgrace on her and her family and pressure on her relationship with Joseph. Yet, she chose to take the risk and believe. Despite the many factors that humanly speaking went against it, she made herself available. And because of that, still today you and I are privileged shareholders of the results of this glorious miracle.

God has a plan for you. Only believe. As Elizabeth heard what had happened to Mary, she said: ***"Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."*** (Luke 1:45 NKJV). And blessed will also you be, when you believe and trust Him who promised. You will surely see the fulfillment of those promises.

Last year this time, God had impregnated me with a vision and spoken to me about starting a ministry, and I was asking the question: ***"How could this happen?"*** Today, a year later, I can only marvel in awe of all that has happened. God has fulfilled His word. It is a miracle that since the founding of Awake the Nations, I'm able to do ministry fulltime.

This first year of ATN, I have ministered in 6 different nations, in some of them more than once, spoken at countless meetings and events, and seen hundreds of lives changed, healed and saved for eternity. Last year this time, I didn't even dare dream of impact as broad and great as this. I have truly seen that with God nothing is impossible!

As always, God uses people to accomplish His purposes. And so He has used YOU to make it possible to launch the ministry and do what He told us to do. I thank you so very much for carrying the vision together with me, for supporting the work in so many ways, may it be through prayer, practical skills and knowledge, finances or something else. Every form of support is equally important and you all share in the great harvest that we'll see one day in heaven.

May God richly bless you and your loved ones this Christmas as you celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus!

***"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."***
Isaiah 9:6



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