

## ARE YOU BORN OF THE HOLY SPIRIT? (2020 Christmas Message)

### *Scripture:*

*Luke 1:26-38. 26Now in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28And coming in, he said to her, Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. 30The angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." 34Mary said to the angel, How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35The angel answered and said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason, the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.*

### **Introduction:**

I would like to ask you a Christmas trivia question. Which month was Jesus born? Was He born in the month of December? Before answering, you may need these three passages to answer this question:

### *Luke 1:26,27.*

*26Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.*

*Luke 1: 36. 36 And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month.*

*Luke 1:39-44 39Now at this time (6th month) Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, 40and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. 41When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42And she cried out with a loud voice and said, Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.*

*.....when Mary entered Elizabeth's house, the baby leaped!*

So, when did Mary conceive? Sixth month according to Jewish calendar (Around August or September! Probably around the feast of the Tabernacle or may be even before that, perhaps, Yom Kippur, the day of atonement)

So, when was Jesus born then? Probably, May or June! Most likely during the time of Pentecost festival time, which was called the feast of the first fruits! It is a significant detail. The day of Pentecost is very significant for three important reasons:

The Torah (law) came to Israel from Mount Sinai

The disciples of Jesus received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

Now we see the possibility of the birth of Jesus Christ also around the day of Pentecost! Christ as the fulfillment of all the requirements of law. Is it not remarkable?

Today, I would like to focus my message on another remarkable fact about the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ! There is a striking parallel between Christ's birth, and Christ's birth in our heart! There is a parallel of Christ's growth as a boy, and as an adult.

Paul says in Galatians:

*Galatians 4:19.*

*19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you!*

I. First, Christ must be born in our heart! There is a striking similarity between Mary's immaculate conception through Holy Spirit, and Christ being born of the Holy Spirit in our heart.

How can Christ be born within our spiritual heart? Peter gives the answer in Acts 2:38

*Acts 2:38.*

*38 Peter said to them, Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

Before I dig into this important Scripture verse, I would like to share a lighthearted joke about this critical verse, Acts 2:38.

"Kandy had just returned to her home from an evening church service when she was startled by an intruder.

She caught the man in the act of robbing her home and she yelled out, "Stop! Acts 2:38!" (What is that verse - Repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven). That is what she wanted that thief to do. But when the thief heard that, he just froze! Kandy calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All that lady did was yell a scripture reference to you."

"Scripture?" replied the burglar. "She said she had an ax and two 38's!"

I thought, that was funny! My sister remarked, we could use even a bigger caliber - Acts 2:42!

☺.

Now let me get back to this important verse, Acts 2:38. What is it saying? I'll just paraphrase and say it this way:

Repent of your sins, receive Jesus Christ through faith, be born of the Holy Spirit, and be baptized to demonstrate your absolute surrender and obedience to Jesus Christ, our Lord. These are four important steps of salvation, and every true believer who follows these steps will have Jesus Christ born in his heart mysteriously! Just like how Mary conceived Jesus by miracle, true believers will have Christ formed in their hearts! How can these things be possible? How can it be?

Same question a prominent religious leader asked 2000 years back! Let's look at

*John 3:1-9.*

*1Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; 2this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” 3Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

*4Nicodemus said to Him, How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” 5Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be amazed that I said to you, You must be born again. 8 The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*

*9Nicodemus said to Him, How can these things be?”*

When we repent of our sins and yield ourselves totally to Him, we are saved by His atoning grace, and Christ descends into our heart in the form of the Holy Spirit, and Christ is born in our heart. You cannot see Him, but you will experience His presence in your heart. There will be tremendous joy and peace in your heart.

It is through grace through faith in Christ, we receive the birth of Christ in our heart, and we become born of the Spirit. That which is flesh is flesh but that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. We are born of the Spirit by the will of God, and not by our own will! The following passage affirms that. You try to read the Following passage as I try to paraphrase it.

*John 1:9-13.*

*9There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. 10He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

The last verse is very important, and we should try to memorize and remember it always! No one can be born from above with his clever maneuvers. Christ sends the Holy Spirit in our heart to make it happen. When the Spirit of God comes into our heart, He becomes our Immanuel, “God with us”! Just as Mary conceived Christ through the Holy Spirit, we must allow Christ to be born in our heart through His Spirit. Are you indeed born of the Holy Spirit? Is Christ indeed formed in you? If the answer is no, go back to what Peter told us in Acts 2:38! Repent of your sins, Believe on Lord Jesus Christ, be born of the Holy Spirit by faith, and be baptized!

II. The baby, that is born of the Spirit in our heart must grow! It is not enough that Christ be born in our heart through faith, but that baby must grow stronger so that he or she may move around and leap in the mother’s womb! The baby must be rooted in the Word so that he may never be shaken by any attacks of Satan. Satan will try his best to abort this spiritual baby and flush it out of our heart. But we must resist the devil, and cling to Christ so that we can never be shaken.

III. This baby Jesus must be delivered, and people should see this baby. No one can see the baby clearly when the baby is in the mother’s womb! (But we can see the baby vaguely through

a sonogram). When the baby is out of the mother's womb, we can see very clearly. We must also bring out our Spiritual baby Jesu to be visible to this world!

Exciting moment of any mother is seeing her own baby after delivery! When Mary kissed her baby, she kissed the face of God indeed. Christ, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, came out as incarnated God in flesh! What a marvelous miracle! What a holy moment! The baby was not born in a sophisticated hospital, but in a humble, stinky, most unhygienic place on earth, the manger! Yet the baby was indeed the lamb of God that was given to us for the sacrifice of our sins! What a marvelous love!

Likewise, it is not enough that we are conceived by the new birth of Jesus in our heart, we must bring Him out as our new creation and make the world see Christ in us. Our old sinful flesh must die, but our new creation in Christ takes over us, and we are transformed as new baby Christians in this world! This is the greatest transformation of all.

*Galatians 2:20.*

*I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me. The life I lead is through the faith of Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me!*

There is no such thing called a secret Christian. We are as new babies in Christ, openly show ourselves as newborn baby Christians. There is only one identity we carry. Not Indian, nor American, nor Republican, nor democrat, but as one who is in Christ, who lives for Christ, and follows Christ! This must be our new identity, and we must be very proud of it! We are indeed the newborn children of God.

IV. This new baby in Christ cannot stay as baby forever but must grow spiritually.

*Luke 2:46-49.*

*46Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. 47And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.*

We see here that the baby Jesus grew in stature and wisdom! He studied the Word of God so well that He could teach the scholars and teachers in the temple. God wants us to grow strong in His Word! Many of us are grown adults, and yet we do not know the Bible as we should. We are not serious about studying the Word. Here a little, there a little will give you only very little exposure. Acronym for BIBLE is:

Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth!

Some of us are going to leave this earth without reading this book cover to cover. The more we read, the better we will understand about God, the Father, Jesus, the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit. It is imperative to understand what God is telling us through His Word, and what He wants from our life.

We must grow spiritually through His Word, just as "Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." There is no limit to learn about God and know God intimately. Let us grow spiritually as Jesus grew in wisdom and stature!

V. The fifth stage is all about action! We must walk as He walked. As we grow in Christ, we become like Him. As He walked on earth, we must also walk. As He loved us, and gave it all

for us, we must also love, and give it all for the Lord and for others. If we do that, we can be called Christians, the one who walks like He walked on earth is the true Christian.

Our new birth is all about love. We are born anew or born again to love everyone, including our enemies! We may show our love to everyone during Christmas season, but then we forget about it. We must celebrate the birth of Christ in our heart everyday of our life. We are born to love. People will know that we are Christians through our love. Let us focus on loving every human being. We are made to love one another, and we are called to love everyone! We will be known as Christians by our love! That is the greatest Christmas gift for our Savior, Lord Jesus Christ, and love is the greatest glory for one another!

Let me summarize here.

Conclusion:

We must all be born of the Holy Spirit as Mary was conceived of the Holy Spirit.

We must be rooted solid in the Word so that our faith may not get aborted that easily. We must grow in the Word daily and become strong and wise like Jesus!

We must walk as He walked in this world. Follow Christ's love, and touch people with the love of Christ! People will know that we are Christians by our love for them!

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