

INSIDE OUT: GOD'S PROMISE THROUGH MARY

God's Promise: "It is God who works in you." Philippians 2:13

My Promise

I will welcome and cooperate with the inner work of God.

What can you say about the Christmas Present you got in 2017? Are you still using it? Did you return it? Have you used it up? Have you lost it?

In the Christian life, what we received when Jesus came to our lives is designated to not only be close to us but also should be in us and should never lose its value much less its use. In this sense, the present is not "something" but rather "someone". When Mary was invited by God to receive something that was the "supernatural deposit of His Son in her life", that same invitation is given by God to all of us today. He wants us to receive a supernatural deposit in our lives. He was a baby in her womb. He is now a force in us.

Bible Reading: John 3:1-8

Nicodemus

NICODEMUS'S BODY WAS NOT ENOUGH – John 3:1-3a

When it comes to understanding spiritual things, many times we can fall into the dilemma of the literal. We want literal answers to supernatural questions. For example, how can we come to be "good" or "different?" For Nicodemus, the "signs" of Jesus were a strong indicator that Jesus offers something more than literal. Jesus' miracles point to another reality. Nicodemus was describing something that many people have discovered. Jesus was more than a miracle worker.

Nicodemus problem was that he could not understand what Jesus was trying to tell him. It was not enough to have “seen” or participated in these “wonders”. Something else was needed. There should be a change inside before understanding the “wonders” outside.

Is it not the same with us? Many times the “wonders” intrigue us and attract us. They do them so effectively that without thinking, we find ourselves face to face with the “miracle worker”. His response is intriguing, because now the literal is passed by to the supernatural. “It is necessary that you be born again.”

Our literal mind demands to know how something natural can occur again. “Can a man be born being old?” This was Nicodemus question. The truth is that it has nothing to do with the body. Nicodemus’ body was not enough. This has nothing to do with human bodies. It has to do with seeing the kingdom of God with supernatural glasses.

THE WOMB OF THE MOTHER OF NICODEMUS WAS NOT ENOUGH - John 3:3b

In the mind of Nicodemus, the demand of Jesus takes him to do ask another question. Can the womb of a mother produce the “new birth?” Oh, if we could only return to our mother’s womb and begin anew.

Wouldn’t it be formidable to take all of the experiences, decisions, and actions (especially the wrong) and with that knowledge “begin again?” For Nicodemus, to return to his mother’s womb seemed to be a genuine option, since his coming to Jesus was precisely for the motive of beginning again. He wanted to get a better prize; to see the kingdom of God.

Our hope is not based on the impossible or even ridiculous thoughts about how we can live “from the inside out.” However, that should not frustrate us. Jesus Christ invites us to believe that in Him, even in the “ridiculous” we are taken even closer to His purposes. We only need to add the element of the Holy Spirit and his supernatural work. (read Ephesians 2:8-10)

THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD IS SUFFICIENT – John 3:4-8

In this story, Jesus reveals something formidable. We cannot return to our mother's womb, but His Spirit does make it possible to happen what for us is literally impossible. We will not return to the womb of a mother, but we will be transformed by the Spirit through the new birth so that we can see the Kingdom of God.

The eyes that will see the kingdom of God are not carnal eyes; but rather they are those that have been transformed by the breath of the Spirit. Just like Ezekiel did not know how those bones were going to be awakened (Ezekiel 35), Nicodemus also did not understand how his life needed was a regenerating touch of the Spirit in order to be born again.

What Nicodemus was looking for, was what only a spiritual and supernatural transformation could do. Mary could not understand how the Spirit would cause her to be pregnant from the eternal presence of God in Jesus. You and I do not know how it is that when we are born again, Jesus Christ lives in us; how His Holy Spirit blows life and power in us, and how instead of understanding from the outside in, we understand from the inside out. We call this revelation. That is what Nicodemus needed. As much as he wanted to understand it, only the Holy Spirit could make it work.

That is how we manifest the work of the kingdom in our lives. Not because it literally happened, but because God does it supernaturally. "So are all those who have been born of the Spirit!" (verse 8) This act causes God to now be able to "be born in you, the good desires and who helps to fulfill them."

Philippians 2:13