

## Impossible? Think Again

Luke 1:26-38

I remember so well as a seven year old sitting those early Saturday mornings in Mrs. Gralman's living room waiting for my piano lesson. She had one of the first televisions in that part of the country. I looked forward with anticipation to those mornings, not for the lesson, but the waiting and the opportunity to see Flash Gordon, Defender of the World and his amazing interplanetary adventures with his spaceship "faster than the speed of light." I knew it was fake when I saw the string attached to the nosecone along with the candle flame and the drifting smoke at the tail during "blast-off." After all, such a thing was impossible, or was it?

Today we have come to believe anything is possible. We've witnessed the transition from the impossible to the probable. From the fictional Dick Tracy 2-Way Wrist Watch Radio/TV to video GPS and audio; we've seen that which was impossible become a daily reality, if not a necessity. Technology has removed all doubt that the impossible truly is possible. That if you can imagine it, it can happen.

Yet with this phenomenon, we discover a strange paradox. We do hang on to those things we deem impossible regardless of the evidence. This is especially true about those things which pertain to God's ability to do the impossible. For over 2,000 years the vast majority (even among "Christians") still believe the impossibility of the two major evidences and pillars of the faith—the virgin birth of Christ and His resurrection.

Certainly the majority of us here this morning genuinely believe in a literal virgin birth and a literal resurrection of Jesus Christ, Son of God. By faith we accept the fact that "with God all things are possible," which naturally intimidates the natural mind into total rejection. Yet, even the few who actually believe "nothing will be impossible with God" fuel the doubt of those who have rejected the evidence because in practicality we more often than not live as if not *all* things are possible with God. How many times have we said, "I can never stop my propensity or addiction to \_\_\_\_\_"? Or "that person will never change," or "I can never trust that person, forgive that person, love that person again." Have you heard, "My marriage will never work," or "Our reconciliation can never take place"?

If Christmas is about anything, it has to be about the impossible. It has to be about transformation from the natural of the impossible to the supernatural of the possible. At the core of Christmas is the removal of sin and it's unbelief to the transformation into holiness and the belief that all things are possible with God in Christ Jesus.

### **Life Response**

1. This week MEMORIZE and MEDITATE on 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, "*Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.*"
  - (a) To what extent can you relate to this passage as defining your identity?
  - (b) To what extent do you truly believe this is possible?
  - (c) What is your basis for such a "possibility" or claim? (Consider Luke 1:35; John 1:12-13)

2. What application does “holiness” have to “relationships”?
3. Think about the supernatural work of Holy Spirit in accomplishing the impossible with and in the Virgin Mary. How does that same supernatural work of Holy Spirit accomplish the impossible in your life? Again consider Luke 1:35; John 1:12-13; 1 Cor. 3:16-17.
4. What relationship do “holiness,” “reconciliation,” and being a “Son (child) of God” have with each other and your personal life? Evaluate in context of 1 Thess. 4:1-8.
5. How does this lesson bring a greater significance to Christmas for you personally?

*“Holiness in us, is the copy or transcript of the holiness that is in Christ.” - Philip Henry*

Luke 1:26-38

### INVOLVEMENT IN THE IMPOSSIBLE INTERVENTION FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE IDENTITY OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

#### INVOLVEMENT IN THE IMPOSSIBLE:

- Luke 1:26-29 To be in the **Position** for Involvement
  - “Kept pondering what kind of statement this might be”
  - God, You want Me!
- Luke 1:34 To be an active **Participant** in Involvement
  - “How can the be . . .”
  - But God can’t use Me!
- Luke 1:38 To be **Passionate** about Involvement
  - “Be it done to me according to Your Word”
  - God, count Me in for broke.

#### INTERVENTION FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE:

*“Here we simply have the Holy Spirit of God producing, by divine power and creative energy, the body of the Lord Jesus Christ in the womb of a virgin.” Dr. Henry A Ironside*

The Miraculous work of Holy Spirit

Spiritual birth is entirely a divine work of Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity in both Jesus Christ and man.

KEY PHRASE:    ΕΚ            ΠΝΕΥΜΑΤΟΣ            ΑΓΙΟΥ  
                         out/from            Spirit                            Holy

In Christ: “for THIS reason the *holy offspring* shall be called the Son of God.”

. . . the revelation of God's holiness

In Man: "Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born of water and the SPIRIT, he can not enter into the Kingdom of God." John 3:5

And How? John 1:12-13

. . . the revelation of God's holiness

### **IDENTITY OF THE IMPOSSIBLE:**

The identity of "Holiness"

- 1 Cor. 3:16-17      You are Holy
- 1 Cor. 6:19-20      Glorify God in your body – the temple
- 1 Peter 1:14-16      Be Holy as He is Holy in all your behavior
- 1 Thess 4:7-8      Purity – Sanctification
- Heb. 12:14      Relationships
- Col. 4:6      Speech
- Heb. 12:10      Disciplined in holiness