

God of the Impossible

A Christmas Challenge

I. The Christmas story declares that God does the impossible.

Luke 1:26-38 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 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; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God. And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

A. Gabriel is sent (with an invitation) to a young virgin, to participate with God of the impossible

Luke 1:26-28 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

B. The question of Mary

Luke 1:34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

C. Mary submits to the God of the impossible.

Luke 1:37-38 ..."For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

II. Salvation is the result of believing that God does the impossible

A. Salvation happens only through understanding that salvation is impossible with man, but possible with God.

Matt 19:25-26 When the disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be saved?" And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Mark 10:26-27 ...Then who can be saved?" Looking at them, Jesus said, "With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."

Luke 18:27 But He said, "The things that are impossible with people are possible with God."

B. The gospel releases God's power in us.

Rom 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written; "but the righteous man shall live by faith."

Rom 16:25-26 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets,

according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;

Rom 4:21 and (Abraham) being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

Heb 11:19 He (Abraham) considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead,

Heb 10:4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

C. Faith believes God to do the impossible

Mark 9:23-24 ... And Jesus said to him, " 'If You can?' All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief."

Matt 17:20 for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Heb 6:17-18 In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us

III. Our walk in Christ requires of us dependency on God:

(An attitudes of faith submission)

A. To keep us from deception.

Mark 13:21-23 "And then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ'; or, 'Behold, He is there'; do not believe him; for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance.

Matt 24:24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

Jude 24-25 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

B. To live in repentance

Acts 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

C. To be at peace in all of our relationships.

Rom 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

IV. The power of God is released in our life as we believe that He is able to do what He has promised.

A. The Word of God never fails

Isa 55:7-11 Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will

abundantly pardon. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

B. He desire to give us all things freely.

Rom 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

C. His power is released in our life through faith and revelation of His will.

Eph 1:18-19 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

V. God limits His power to the expectation of His church.

A. He is able to do the impossible but limits Himself to what is working in us.

Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

B. He gives to us the Holy Spirit so that we believe for the impossible, the things He freely given to us.

1 Cor 2:9-13 but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him." For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

C. We work out our salvation in partnership with God.

Phil 2:12-13 ...work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

D. We labor through His power.

Col 1:29 For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

VI. Great quotes from: "The Attitude of Faith;" by Frank Damazio

1. Attitude is the shaping influence on your life, and you can create, change it, revise it, align it, improve it, and make it either a helper or a hindrance to your life. You must develop a healthy, biblical, positive, faith-filled attitude. It is not automatic. It takes work. But wrong attitudes can block the favor and blessing that God desires to give you. Attitudes erode if not protected and improved consistently and persistently. Your attitude may well be the most important and valuable thing you have in your possession right now. (Page 196)

2. A faith attitude gives us an uncommonly positive perspective on all aspects of life. Nothing can stop you from achieving God's best for your life and the lives of other people you touch in the journey when the attitude of faith is working in you. The attitude of faith opens and closes doors, makes a way where there is no way, and sees things that others cannot see. (Page 197)

2 Cor 4:13 But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

3. Take some time right now to read and meditate on some of these great faith Scriptures as you cultivate an attitude of great faith in a great God. (Page 198)

Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

Luke 7:9 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled at him, and turned and said to the crowd that was following Him, "I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith."

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

4. Great faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible. Great faith sees all the promised blessings as if they were present possessions. The attitude of faith believes that God is a good God, a God of abundance, and an all-things-are-possible God. It believes that God is all powerful at all times and in every circumstance--that He is a God who is able to do anything. (Page 198)

5. Faith is the empty hand of the soul that reaches out to God and comes back full! Faith in your hand reaches up to receive what God has freely promised. If the devil can pull your hand back down to your side, then he has succeeded. So reach. Reach high. Reach right now with your hand and simply say, "God, I am a person of great faith, and I am reaching out to You with the attitude of faith to receive all that You have for my life." (Page 198)

6. Faith is the ability of the human spirit that is filled with the Holy Spirit to open up and receive impressions from God that are born from His Word and made alive by His Spirit this ability brings about a supernatural conviction of certain facts, apart from the senses. (Page 199)

7. "Satan may build a hedge about us and fence us in and hinder our movements, but he cannot roof us in and prevent our looking up." (Hudson Taylor) (Page 201)

8. The name Disney is known worldwide today, but that is because Walt Disney dreamed big. He would not settle for the small dreams that anyone could accomplish. He reached for the big ones that no one believed were possible. We went to his board with a plan, he would lay out a dream that was massive and overwhelming and then sit back to see the board members' responses. If they stared at him in disbelief and shock and then resisted the idea, he pursued it. If they simply accepted it with no argument, he dropped it. (Page 203)

9. Some say, "Faith is the gift of God." So is the air; but you have to breathe it. So is bread; but you have to eat it. So is water; but you have to drink it. Some are wanting a miraculous kind of feeling. That is not faith. "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ (Rom 10:17 NASU). That is whence faith comes. It is not for me to sit down and wait for faith to come stealing over me with a strong sensation; but it is for me to take God at His Word. (D. L. Moody). (Page 211)