

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; **prove** your own selves. **Know** ye not your own selves, how that **Jesus Christ is in you**, except ye be reprobates? (good for nothing)

If it wasn't for Jesus, you wouldn't amount to much. It's only because of Him that you amount to anything at all, because when you have Him, you have everything! *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Proverbs 14:12)* God's Word says that you need to examine yourself and to prove yourself whether you are truly in faith or not. Did you know that **it actually takes faith to even be saved**? A lot of people think that just because they said a prayer when they were younger, that they are saved today. Did you know that the "sinner's prayer" isn't even in the Bible? What God's Word does say, is that in order to have faith, you have to **hear** the Gospel - the Good News. *So then **faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.** (Romans 10:17)* You have to hear about how Jesus came to earth as a man, just as you did, except that He didn't have the sinful nature of the devil in Him, because of Adam's disobedience. He had God's seed - His nature, which was good and holy. Jesus was born of a woman just like you were, but without a natural father. He only had a spiritual Father, which was God Himself - Jesus' heavenly Father!

When a woman becomes pregnant - when she conceives, she becomes "with Child," from the seed of a natural man- It's the only way it can happen! On the other hand, when Mary conceived, it wasn't because of a man, it was because God's Holy Spirit overshadowed her, and because she **agreed** to God's message of salvation - the Good News that the angel told her! *And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call His name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:30-38)*

Salvation Himself had come as soon as Mary said Yes to God! Mary agreed with the Good News that she would become pregnant with the Christ Child - the One Who was coming into the world to save people from their sins - the One Who would deliver them and set them free - the One Who would be the provider of everything they would need, the One Who would heal all of their diseases! Normally an heir is someone who is born after the one who is leaving the inheritance to them - an ancestor. In this case, though, Mary, Jesus' mother and ancestor, would be made an heir of salvation by her direct descendant, her own Son, Jesus!

Jesus, Who was Life itself, was bringing His earthly Mother, life and life abundantly! Just think of the faith that Mary had to have in order for her to receive the Word of the Lord that the angel brought her! Even though it had been prophesied - spoken by the prophet Isaiah years before how Jesus the Savior of the world would enter the world, it took faith to believe it would happen! *Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and*

bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14) It also took faith for Isaiah to even proclaim the message that the Lord told Him to say that a virgin would become pregnant! That makes absolutely no sense in the natural, and people probably thought he was off on that prophesy - who would believe such a thing? Isaiah did! The Word of the Lord came to him, a prophet of the Most High God, and he believed it and spoke out what God's Holy Spirit told him! He knew His voice! When God got someone to actually say what He was telling them - when He got someone to be in agreement with His Word, it got the ball rolling - it could now come to pass! Now God could choose a woman - a virgin, to be the one who would be blessed, to conceive His Word and bare Jesus to bring salvation to a dying world! **The moment Mary used her faith and agreed with the Word, she received Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Can you imagine how she felt, having God Himself, in the form of a man, living and growing inside of her? The Way, the Truth, and the Life was inside of her, and all it took was for her to use her faith to believe it and say it! Mary would never be the same - she encountered Life itself!**

What about you? Where are you in your faith walk? How is your relationship with God? Mary was delivered of Jesus when He was born, but when He comes to live inside of you, He **never** leaves! Mary, who was delivered of Jesus, physically, would be delivered by Him also when salvation was made available to her at the death and resurrection of Jesus. You see, in order for you to actually be resurrected, (to heaven) there has to be a death. If you never receive Jesus as your own Lord - the Lord of your life - spirit, soul, and body, then when you die, you'll be resurrected to the judgment of God and your sins will keep you separated from God forever - your pride, which didn't believe the Word of God, which says that you have to be born again, will keep you from inheriting the kingdom of God. *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.** (John 3:3)*

God says that you have to believe that Jesus came to earth as a man to save you from your sins and took your sins upon Himself. Your sins were nailed to the cross on Jesus and He died because of them! He was buried and resurrected into heaven and now is seated at the right hand of God! Jesus made the way for you to be saved, and all you have to do is **believe** in Him and trust Him, and **confess** Him - your new Lord before people, and **repent!** (turn from your sins) If you never turned from your sins and gave up your life for God and let Him live through you, then you will not make heaven your home. You chose to stay in sin and to **reject** Jesus' free offer of salvation. You **chose** to spend all of eternity in hell, separated from God!

You see, it does take faith to be saved. You have to die to yourself and be alive to Christ! *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the **Son** of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)*

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as **God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.** (Romans 12:1-3)*** **You do have faith**, and not just a measure, but **THE measure** that God gives to everyone! You have the faith to be saved right now, which is the biggest miracle that you can ever receive! You can go from being **dead**, spiritually, to being **alive** spiritually! You

can have Almighty God's very own Spirit alive and living inside of you, which is the most **powerful** being in the universe! You can know what it's like to conceive Jesus inside of you! *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away; (dead) behold, **all** things are become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

If you think you are saved, but you really aren't sure, then you can be sure - you have faith! You just have to put your faith in God and not in yourself or in your own faith. *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:9, 10)*

Remember: Faith speaks God's Words - faith words. Faith believes God's Word. Faith acts on the Word of God. Faith receives what God's Word says belongs to you! Walk by faith not by sight!

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