



## ***Appreciation of the Gift—Perception*** **December 16, 2007**

### **Sermon Notes**

#### **Appreciation of the Gift**

##### **Luke 1:26-38 (New Living Translation)**

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, 27 to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. 28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" 29 Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. 30 "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

34 Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. 36 What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she's now in her sixth month. 37 For nothing is impossible with God."

38 Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. [be it unto me according to your word] May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

#### **Non-Appreciation of the Gift**

##### **Exodus 3:11 (New Living Translation)**

11 But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?"

##### **Exodus 4:1 (New Living Translation)**

1 But Moses protested again, "What if they won't believe me or listen to me? What if they say, 'The Lord never appeared to you?'"

##### **Exodus 4:10-11 (New Living Translation)**

10 But Moses pleaded with the Lord, "O Lord, I'm not very good with words. I never have been, and I'm not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled."

11 Then the Lord asked Moses, "Who makes a person's mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the Lord?"

**Before you can be appreciative you first must be thankful; to be thankful you must be conscious of the benefit (Gift) received**

**Appreciation:**

- the act of estimating the qualities of things and giving them their proper value.
- **clear *perception*** or recognition,
- an increase or rise in the value of property, goods, etc.

**Your perception is how YOU see it!**

**See what?**

**LIFE!**

**Your perception is based on your:**

- Past
- Authoritative figures
- Experiences
- Spirit

**Appreciation of the Gift—Perception**

**The reality is all of us struggle having the same perception as God does.**

**Naturally, this can cause frustration for most because we cannot have what God says we can have if we do not see ourselves as God sees us.**

- **Q. How do I clear my perception so I can see me as God does?**
- **A. Next year, today will be my past. Live [in the Word] today in a manner that will make me proud on tomorrow. I then begin to create a clear perception on what is possible for my future.**
- **A. If you had authoritative figures that hurt you, then it is time to trust again. Find authoritative figures that help to heal you.**
- **A. When God's Word is lived out in your life consistently, that creates an experience! It is also called living by faith. When you live out God's Word consistently it completely changes your life, producing thanksgiving, appreciation, and even clearing your perception.**
- **A. The more you read, understand, and activate the Word in your life, it builds up your spirit man. The more your spirit man is built up, the better you are able to hear and sense God on a regular basis.**