

**Worry, Wining, or Worship (Luke 1:46-56)**

*(46) And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, (47) and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, (48) for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; (49) for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. (50) And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. (51) He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; (52) he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; (53) he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. (54) He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, (55) as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever." (56) And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.*

*(4) that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught. ... (Luke 1:4)*

*(25) "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people." ... (Luke 1:25)*

*(37) For nothing will be impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)*

*(5) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. (6) In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (Prov 3:5-6)*

*(5) ... Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (1Pet 5:5)*

*(1) And Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD;... I rejoice in your salvation. (2) "There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. (3) Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. (4) The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength. (5) Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. (6) The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. (7) The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts. (8) He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world. (9) "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail. (10) The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed." (1Sam 2:1-10)*

*(1) Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! (2) Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, (3) who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, (4) who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, (5) who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (6) The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. (7) He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. (8) The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (9) He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. (10) He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. (11) For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; (12) as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. (13) As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. (14) For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. (15) As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; (16) for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. (17) But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, (18) to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. (19) The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. (20) Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! (21) Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! (22) Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul! (Psalm 103:1-22)*

*(4) Delight yourself in the LORD,... (Ps 37:4)*

*(26) For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. (27) But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; (28) God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, (29) so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. (30) And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, (31) so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." (1Cor 1:26-31)*

*(17) The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. (Zeph 3:17)*

*(1) Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. (2) And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. (3) I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Gen 12:1-3)*

1. Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. Mary's heart was filled with love, thanksgiving, praise, and worship for her great God and Savior. What fills your heart? What do you meditate on? Mary was a God-centered, Jesus-loving, Spirit-filled, faith-filled, hope-filled, loving woman. She could have been filled with worry about the implications of all the angel Gabrielle had told her. She could have wined about the possible pain, reproach, rejection, and stigma that was to come. But instead she trusted in the Lord with all her heart, and did not lean on her own understanding. She trusted God to direct her steps. Are you filled with worry, wining, or worship?
2. God deserves worship from our body through how we live each day, and He deserves worship in and from our soul/spirit. Do you seek to magnify/glorify God from your soul, the very core of who you are? Do you have a joyful spirit? Is the one true God your Savior? Mary recognized her sin and her need for salvation. Mary recognized that she rightly deserved God's punishment. But Mary also recognized God's grace/favor through the child who would be born from her womb, the child that would not only be her son but also her Savior. She recognized that the child she would deliver would soon deliver her. Is the deepest desire of your soul to magnify/glorify Jesus Christ? If not, there are things in life that you will experience that will not make sense to you. You exist for the magnification of Christ. All your experiences are intended ultimately to magnify Christ as you trust Him and praise Him through them all. Joy does not ultimately come from our circumstances or from other people, but from God our Savior. Our spirit/soul is the core of who we are, our very center.

3. God sees you today, He sees your state. No matter where you are or what you have done He loves you. His love for you has been demonstrated through His Son Jesus. Mary's humble, insignificant, lowly, poor, young, female estate did not prevent God from loving her and graciously choosing to use her in a wonderful way for His glory. Are you God's servant and a servant of His Son Jesus?
4. The blessing of God is better than the blessing and favor of any person. An important estate may be characterized by position, prominence, wealth, popularity, and influence among people. This may cause some to think they are blessed by God. But, our estate is not necessarily a reflection of God's blessing. The state of our soul/spirit is what indicates the blessing of God. God's blessing will result in this generation and the generations to come to acknowledge God's favor in your life. Are you truly living under God's blessing? Are you living under and with a multi-generational blessing?
5. God does great things for His people, and because He is Almighty, there is nothing that He can't do for you today and in the days to come. Do you ever sit and reflect on the great things God has done for you? When you reflect on the undeserved blessings of the Holy God of the universe your heart should be filled with deep, Mary like praise.
6. God is so merciful to us. God lavishes mercy on those who fear Him. Do you fear God? Do you have a deep love, respect, admiration, and awe of God in light of His holy greatness? If you fear God you can expect His mercy in your life. We should be teaching the generations to come to fear God so that they might know the fullness of His mercy.
7. God shows His strength and power to His people. You can trust that you have the full power of God working on your behalf if you belong to Christ. Jesus unites the humble in the thoughts of their hearts. Humility unites marriages, families, churches, communities, states, and countries. True humility starts in the heart. The proud of heart will be scattered, divided, and dismantled. Those who think they are mighty in and of themselves will be brought down low. Those who are humble before God will be exalted. God exalts those who have hearts like Mary did. Is your heart like hers? A heart that seeks to glorify God, rejoices in God, serves God, praises God, worships God, fears God, humbles themselves before God, hungers for God, trusts in God, hopes in God, and loves God.
8. Do you hunger for God? Do you long for God? Do you want God? Do you desire God? God fills those who are hungry for Him? But, those who are already satisfied, who think they have enough because they have everything this world has to offer, God will not give them Himself. Do you want God more than you want anything else?
9. God delights in helping His people. Do do you need His help today? Do you want God's help today? Are you seeking to help others in His name today? God's people should be helpful to others. God will never forget His mercy for His people. God's servants should be merciful to others. God has been mercifully helping and loving His people since the beginning of time. God is a covenant making and covenant keeping God.
10. Mary loves God and is filled with His Word. This "Song of Mary (Magnificat)" is the result of a young woman who has been meditating on God's Word deeply. She knows the Old Testament and is living out it's truth. Mary's heart and mind were saturated with the Word of God. Are you a person who meditates on God's Word day and night? Do you ever break out in spontaneous praise and worship because of His everlasting love toward you?
11. Mary and Elizabeth were family and friends. They shared in common their love for God, His Son Jesus, and His people. They both had a deep desire to serve God and His people no matter the cost, and they encouraged each other toward that goal. Both of them lived lives of worship instead of lives of worry or wining. What kind of life are you living? Do you have Christian friends like this in your life?
12. God creates out of nothing to show His power and His glory. He did this in the beginning (Gen. 1:1), and He does this in Mary's womb. Mary was a "nobody" from Nazareth, and in and through her He brought forth His Son, Jesus Christ. A nobody, from nowhere, with nothing, was chosen by God to exalt His Son Jesus. Will you exalt Jesus as well?