



Luke 1:45

45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!

Reflection

Today's passage is another beautiful memory verse from Luke's Gospel. Let me read it, Luke 1:45

45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promis-

es to her!’

The words come from Mary’s cousin, Elizabeth, who is glowing with child. She’s filled with the Holy Spirit and she’s speaking to Mary and to all women who trust in the promises of God. To all men as well.

45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!’

God has made some extraordinary promises to Mary, just as he had done through his Son to all humankind, and the response of Mary’s heart was these words,

38 ‘I am the Lord’s servant,’ Mary answered. ‘May your word to me be fulfilled.’

Perhaps Elizabeth is prophesying through the Holy Spirit who fills her to overflowing in this moment, or perhaps she's simply overjoyed at Mary's trust in God's promises. Whatever it is, Elizabeth can't contain herself at the sight of Mary, her baby also leaping in her womb for joy, at the sight of this faithful woman who carries the Saviour of the World in her womb. Luke 1:45,

45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!

And the same blessing is available to you and I as well through the power of the Holy Spirit. But first, let's just remind ourselves of some of God's promises to us, promises worth getting just as excited as Eliza-

beth about.

12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our trans-
gressions from us. Psalm 103:12

16 For God so loved the world that
he gave his one and only Son, that
whoever believes in him shall not
perish but have eternal life. John
3:16

28 Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the
earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one
can fathom.

29 He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the
weak.

30 Even youths grow tired and wea-
ry,

and young men stumble and fall;

31 but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:28–31

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own under-
standing;

6 in all your ways submit to him,

and he will make your paths
straight. Prov 3:5–6

Let God's promises wash over you this morning,

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:6–7

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom

God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[k] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 8:31–39

21 Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God’s dwelling-place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death” or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed

away.’ Rev 21:1–4

Mary believed God. She trusted his word. She believe that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her. And Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cannot help but exclaim,

45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!’

Think

There is no greater happiness available in this life than putting our trust in the God’s promises. Our God is a promise making promise keeping God; not one of his words has ever failed or will ever fail. Can you imagine what life would be like if we took God’s words at face value each and

every day? Can you imagine how all our big worries would become small ones in the light of eternity? Can you imagine the longing we'd carry around in our hearts for Jesus' return? Can you imagine the peace and contentment that would fill our souls at the riches we have in Christ? How can you claim God's promises today? Who do you need to start listening to and stop listening to in order that you might fix your eyes on Jesus and all that is ours in him?

Pray

As you close in prayer, pray today for great blessing. I'm not talking about relational success or material wealth or a long and healthy life – God may choose to give you these or not. I'm talking about the greatest of all blessings, a deep and abiding faith in

the promises of God. The kind of faith that will see you safely into all eternity and suffuse every moment of this life (even those moments of keenest suffering) with an unshakeable joy. Perhaps Psalm 84 might help. I'll read it slowly to close. Pray these words today with the longing of David,

How lovely is your dwelling-place,
Lord Almighty!

2 My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God.

3 Even the sparrow has found a
home,

and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young –
a place near your altar,

Lord Almighty, my King and my

God.

4 Blessed are those who dwell in your house;

they are ever praising you.

5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you,

whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

6 As they pass through the Valley of Baka,

they make it a place of springs;

the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

7 They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.

8 Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty;

listen to me, God of Jacob.

9 Look on our shield, O God;

look with favour on your anointed one.

10 Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favour and honour; no good thing does he withhold from those whose way of life is blameless.

12 Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.