**NOTES**

**FEAR NOT**

**PART 2 - FEAR TO FOLLOW**

**OPEN**

1. One of the greatest challenges we all face in our lives is the fear to follow God’s will, His plan, and His purpose in our lives.
2. Many people think that becoming a Christian is going to be like the Wizard of Oz, “Follow the yellow brick road . . . follow the yellow brick road.”
3. But there are times in our life that the Holy Spirit begins to move us, change us, lead us, transform us, and leads us from where we are to . . . there.
4. And I think one of the most amazing themes and lessons we can learn from those involved in the Christmas story is overcoming the fear to trust and follow the leading of God’s Holy Spirit.

**ZECHARIAH**

LUKE 1:5-25 (open your bibles)

**5**In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. **6**Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commandments and regulations blamelessly. **7**But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

**8**Once when Zechariah’s division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, **9**he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. **10**And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

**11**Then an angel of **the Lord appeared to him (encounter with God)**, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. **12**When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. **13**But the angel said to him: **“Do not be afraid,** Zechariah; **your prayer has been heard**.

**(PROMISE / Plan of God)** Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. **14**He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, **15**for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. **16**Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. **17**And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

**(Fear & Questions)**

**18**Zechariah asked the angel, **“How can I be sure of this?** I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”

**19**The angel answered, “I am Gabriel. (Highest ranking angel in heaven along with Michael) I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. **20**And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time.”

* **WHY? TAKING NOTES . . . .**
* **Many of us talk ourselves out with doubt. (1)**
* **There’s no way this could work. I’m probably having a dream right now. This can’t be real. Why would God do this for me??”**
* **Remember: Joshua/Jericho**
* **Joshua 6: 10**But Joshua had commanded the people, “Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!”
* **WHY –** Joshua had been a first hand witness to the original group that failed!!!!! “We are like grasshoppers in their site!!!”

**21**Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. **22**When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

**23**When his time of service was completed, he returned home. **24**After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.

* **We must take initiative. (2)**

1. Zechariah had to face and say – Elizabeth, sweetheart . . . I know we haven’t done this in a while . . . BUT . . . (wink) you and me . . . .
2. Get some God confidence
3. \*\*\*\*How many people saw the star in the sky??? How many came to find the KING?
4. You do the believable and let God do the unbelievable
5. You do the credible and let God do the incredible.
6. You do the natural and let God do the supernatural

**25**“The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

**MARY**

**LUKE 1: 26**In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27**to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. **28**The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

**29**Mary was greatly troubled (perplexed, startled, perturbed, shaken) at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30**But the angel said to her, **“Do not be afraid,** Mary, you have found favor with God.

**31**You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. **32**He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, **33**and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

**34 (Fear and Questions) “How will this be,”** Mary asked the angel, “since **I am a virgin?”**

* I don’t qualify
* I’ve never been there, done that, and don’t have the t-shirt!
* I’m inadequate.
* I’m not good enough.
* **Moses was inadequate** – couldn’t speak
* **David was inferior** – too young and inexperienced
* **Peter – Insecure** – denied Christ
* **(Luke 22:60-62)** “Peter replied, ‘Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!’ Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter...And (Peter) went outside and wept bitterly.”
* All of us must come to the realization that . . . .
* **God has already placed the ability to accomplish it within us! (3)**
* EX: Moses led the people out of captivity
* EX: David – Shepherd boy = KING
* EX: Peter – Preached 3000
* EX: Starting this church – FEAR on every corner, every angle. REAL FEAR
* EX: starting this church: You’re going to fail. 90% of church plants fail – what makes you think you’re better.
* You’ve never been the captain of a ship – you’re a deck hand and you always will be a deckhand.
* The challenge you and I must face

**35**The angel answered, **(GOD’S PLAN)** “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. **36**Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. **37 For nothing is impossible with God.”**

**38**“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

**39 At that time Mary got ready** **(She put the plan into action and motion) and** hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, **40**where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth.

* **She committed with her heart and soul to walk this plan out in the face of negative repercussions!**
* **Not everyone will rally around your commitment to follow the plan of God! (4)**

**EX: Mary Telling her parents! Blonde wig**

1. **Hey Mom and Dad, Like could we talk I have some big news to tell you!**
2. **Uhmm…. (pregnancy test) have you ever seen one of these? I need to let you know that I am pregnant!**
3. **Well the other night – I was in my room**
4. **EX: Gideon – sent** \_\_ home – afraid – missed out on one of the coolest battles in all of history!

**Judges 7: 3**announce now to the people, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

* **Never forget Christ lives in you! (5-last)**

1. Point of conception in MARY – Jesus Christ in YOU!!!
2. **Imagine what it must be like to carry the SON of the LIVING GOD?????**
3. BUT WAIT – That was just a foreshadow of what was to come!!!
4. **Colossians 1:27** NLT And **this is the secret: Christ lives in you.** This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.
5. (MSG) The mystery in a nutshell is just this: Christ is in you, so therefore you can look forward to sharing in God’s glory. It’s that simple.
6. **1 John 4:4** You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.
7. Angel say??? **Luke 1:37 For nothing is impossible with God.”**
8. WHY would we fear to follow the plan of GOD?
9. Don’t walk, don’t jog, RUN – BECAUSE GOD IS WITH YOU, IMMANUEL!

CLOSE:

**WHAT IS GOD CALLING YOU TO DO?**

NEW IN THIS UPCOMING NEW YEAR

**WHAT HAS BEEN IN YOUR HEART – FEAR HAS STOPPED OR SLOWED YOU DOWN!**

“YOU CAN DO IT!” (WATER BOY)

TIME TO GET READY!

* Maybe it’s to write a book
* Job change
* Starting a family
* Setting a date for the wedding
* New business idea
* Making that difficult phone call to reach out to a loved one – years of brokenness – God wants to use you to bring healing to the family
* Begin serving on the worship team
* Reach out to a neighbor
* Maybe its to take 10 - $10 bills and pass them out at the mall
* Faith to let go of a habit or an addiction (defines you)
* Time to start attending Celebrate Recovery
* I’m taking Financial Peace University and getting out of debt

CLOSE:

I may not know what the future holds but I have confidence in who holds the future!

**JOSEPH**

**FEAR OF FAILURE**

What if I mess up?

What if I fail?

What if I don’t know what to say?

Something I have faced every day of my life. What if this doesn’t work?

Inadequacy - I’m not good enough.

Parable:

Three sets of talents given to three different guys.

Fear of Failure

(Matthew 25:24-26, 28) “Then the man who had received the one talent came ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’”

Give to the ones who weren’t afraid to fail.

God wants to do more in you and through you than you could ever realize!

I would love to go on a mission’s trip

Would love to start a family – what it

Some very unlikely people and walked them through their fears.

Who Does God Most Often Use?

1. Moses: God uses the insecure.

(Exodus 4:10) Moses said to the LORD, “O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”

Crowds freak me out – I’m insecure

I want to share my life in marriage – too afraid to talk to someone

Some – God has challenged you to start a business – you could be a channel for God to fund the Kingdom – too afraid to step out and do it.

Someone you love without Christ – God is prompting you to reach out – “I may mess it up”

Don’t feel smart enough, good enough, old enough, wise enough…

EX: Sang a special music song for Sunday night service!!! Ugh!!!

Get some God confidence

You do the believable and let God do the unbelievable

You do the credible and you let him do the incredible.

You do the natural and let him do the supernatural

God will use insecure people like all of us

(Exodus 4:11-12) The LORD said to (Moses), “Who gave man his mouth? Is it not I, the LORD?

Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

God calls you

2. David: God uses the unlikely.

Shepherd boy turned KING

He specializes in using the unlikely

Oldest son – handsome and talented

Then . . .

(1 Samuel 16:6-7) “...Samuel saw Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.’ But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.’”

God is looking at your heart.

He sees things in you that no one else sees!

Why doesn’t someone else care about this like I do? Because God put it in your heart.

Stop believing what other people say about you. Listen to what God says about you!!! You could have been born at any point in history – but HE put you here in this time, in this place. You can do all things that he has called you to do. Feel the fear and take the step

(1 Samuel 16:11) “There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered, “but he is tending the sheep.”

3. Peter: God uses failures.

The ones that have messed up in the past.   
I’m’ your loyal guy – all the others may fail you but I will never deny you.

(Luke 22:60-62) “Peter replied, ‘Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!’ Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter...And (Peter) went outside and wept bitterly.”

He failed the big one. Divorce – God can use you, your kids fail and rebel…

Failure is never final with God!!

Don’t blame yourself for the decline or you might take the credit for the climb.

The very point of failure may be the platform God uses you to help others.

Peter – chosen by God to deliver the BIG message. God used a failure!

(Acts 2:38, 41) “Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins’...Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.”

Key Thought: You have to step out to find out.

(Matthew 14:28-29) “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.”

The others didn’t do it because they were afraid of failing!!!!!

What is God calling you to do?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to me through this message?