

The Blessing of Christmas: Words of Life

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If you want a feel good Christmas “special” on TV, you need to avoid Jesus. If Jesus is mentioned, He is only a baby and babies are cute.

Question: What is it about Hallmark type Christmas movies that appeal to us?

Jesus is polarizing; He has an agenda to transform everything about our lives.

Question: Are we prepared to welcome this “baby Jesus” at Christmas time?

Luke 1:39-45

Jesus isn’t born yet and He literally shakes things up. The focus by us is on the death of Jesus but His identity is also as the giver of the Holy Spirit.

Question: Does this “identity” of Jesus surprise you?

Joel 2:28-32

Luke 1 - baby Jesus is around and people are filled with the Holy Spirit. Prenatal John leaps, Elizabeth bursts forth with a prophetic utterance and immediately Mary bursts forth with one.

Questions: Have you ever sensed a “bursting forth” of a word in response to the presence of the Holy Spirit?

“Jesus brings the Holy Spirit and the people of the Spirit declare with the Spirit truth inspired by the Spirit.”

With the Holy Spirit, what is spoken is not catchy platitudes.

Zachariah was a priest but he wasn’t the one to greet Mary at the door with an empowering word. He couldn’t speak because he didn’t believe in the word that God gave him ... unlike Mary did.

The voice that receives God’s word in faith is the voice that speaks God’s word in faith. You can’t give away what you don’t possess.

Questions: Do you speak a Hallmark card blessing or a blessing that will change the course of a person’s life? In what way do these look differently? Have you received in order to give away?

“Blessings begin with trust in God’s word for your own life and grow with the practice of encouragement to those around you.”

Questions: What has God deposited in someone else’s life that He is calling you to affirm right now? What mostly comes out of your mouth: criticism, complaining, gossip, or blessing?

When we speak with the power of the Spirit, we bring a Christmas size blessing to the world around us.

