

Overshadowing Us to Do a New Thing
The Power of The Most High Is Overshadowing Us

Text: Luke 1:26-28

Thesis: **The Lord is overshadowing us and coming upon us in this season in order to do something new.**

Last Sunday, Pastor Steve shared a powerful word about *Beginning Again: The Power of Hope*. I want to remind you of some important points from that message:

- Even churches need fresh starts and new beginnings. It is a new chapter for us. We can write on them whatever God wants.
- Remember: If Calvary needs to change, ask yourself: How am I going to change? You and I are the church. Ask, How should I change? What am I meant to bring to this body to bring new and to change to this body? Listen to the Lord. He will speak.
- Here is the Word of the Lord: It is never too late to begin again. This is one of the core messages of the Bible.
- The Lord is saying to you: Believe me. Have hope in me.
- The Lord is saying to us as a congregation: have hope in me.
- Fresh starts happen when we take God at his word.
- **If you have no hope for the future, you have no power in the present.**
- It is not too late to begin again, but it has to start at the place of hope, of believing God and his plan and future.
- *Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

I wanted to review what Pastor Steve shared because it ties into the word for us today.

Back on Monday, May 8, 2017, I was in the Prayer Room for our Monday night set. I got in there about 7:45pm after wrapping up an appointment.

Near the end of our prayer time, I had an impression from the Lord.

I reflected on what happened and asked the Lord: "What does that mean?" Then, I thought of Mary's encounter with the angel Gabriel from Luke 1.

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 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" (Luke 1:26-33).

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "**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.

After reading this passage, I prayed into this impression from the Lord.

Here is what I believe:

1. I felt that **the Lord is overshadowing us and coming upon us in this season in order to do something new.**
 - a. I believe that this word was for me personally.
 - b. I also believe that this word is for us and for us corporately, since I am a gatekeeper here.
 - c. Listen again to what Pastor Steve said:
 - i. This is a season of beginning again.
 - ii. It is not too late to begin again, but it has to start at the place of hope, of believing God and his plan and future.
2. I believe that this overshadowing is **to birth and to bring to fulfillment the Lord's promises and purposes in us.**
 - a. There is an element of timing in this word: this is a "now" word.
 - i. For Mary, there was a conception. Then, then there was a birth.
 - ii. For us, **God is doing a new thing in us.** This is his word.
 - b. There is a promise to us from the Lord: fulfillment is coming.
 - i. The fulfillment, **the time of bearing fruit,** will come. This is his promise.
3. **What is our confidence?**
 - a. **"No word of God is without power"** (Luke 1:37).
 - i. When the Lord speaks, he will not allow his word to return unto him void; the word of the Lord will accomplish his desires and his purposes (Isaiah 55:11).
 - ii. *Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ (Romans 8:17).*
 - b. So, we choose to believe the Lord, to take him at his word, because he is faithful and true.
 - i. He fulfills his word.
 - ii. He watches over his word to perform it.

- iii. Every word of God comes with power to do what he desires and purposes.
 - iv. **We want to respond in faith to what the Lord is doing in this hour in our lives.**
 - (1) *For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith (Hebrews 4:2).*
 - c. We declare: He has never failed us. And, he never will fail us. He will never let us down.
4. **What is our response?**
- a. *“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary said. “May it be to me as you have said” (Luke 1:38).*
 - b. **So let each one of us say:** I am the servant of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to your word.
 - i. **Let us say together:** We are the servants of the Lord. Be it done unto us according to your word.
 - c. **What does this response look like?**
 - i. **Surrender** (Luke 1:38, Mary said “yes” to what the angel said)
 - (1) **May we have a “yes” in our spirit to what the Lord wants to do in this season.**
 - (2) May we **live willingly surrendered to the Lord**, like Jesus (Hebrews 10:7).
 - ii. **Cooperation** (Luke 1:39, Mary went to see Elizabeth immediately)
 - (1) May we take the Lord at his word **by getting in action as he leads us.**
 - (2) May we join the Lord on his mission in and through us.
 - (3) We make a choice to receive the word with faith and then to obey the Lord as he gives direction.
 - iii. **Praise** (Luke 1:46-55, Mary’s song)
 - (1) Let’s give thanks and praise to the Lord for what he has purposed and promised.
 - (2) **May we live full of worship, declaring who the Lord is and what he has done.**
 - (3) In this season, **let’s pray** into what the Lord is saying and doing.