

'GOING ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS'

You going about your business, doing what you have to, performing duties and routines as expected. A kind of plodding along which you've been doing for a long while and seemingly all looks fine on the surface, but actually there is really no spark.

You have given your all to your children, if not your children then your work and if not the former then perhaps it's just been so long since you thought of your dreams and hopes they're now just dusty thoughts on the back shelf of your mind...

Let me take you to Luke and show you, God knows and sees all things and nothing escapes Him... even if you yourself doubt it...

God will send a messenger to bring hope again...when all hope is lost. He will get you to that place where you can dust off that old dream and renew a dull vision. Let me firstly encourage you that when He does so, when you cried out with exasperation at a hope that was lost God heard you. Just as he did with Liz & Zack. Perhaps I should first point out to you that it's not just your life that will be affected, when God answers you.

Every dream and vision you fight for should have a purpose much bigger than you... it should have God in the middle... and if God is in the middle you can be sure that it's going to have an impact.

When you get MARRIED it should be to be stronger and better together to make a difference, you should be planning a live beyond just your four and no more.

When your vision is to build a life and a future in business - make a difference. Don't just let it be about making money. When you join a business do so to be part of a business where you are making a difference... creating opportunities and opening up stairways to build things you may never see in your lifetime but at least know that your name will be mentioned in the foundations with your family and those around will always be remembered for the part all played...like your local the church is a living body that continues to evolve and build in such a way.

It has been too long since we dreamt and hoped...

In life nothing is new under the sun, and we see from early days man faces the same feelings of stagnation and complacency even before Jesus came... God continually has to renew people's hearts to keep moving forward, to remain focused, but, God who is progressive saw when things looked dim as they did then, as they do now! That's why He hears and answers that cry because change must come. That's why He re looked at His plan... so why don't we...?

- ✅ Things always have an appointed time with God

- THE ANGEL APPEARS TO ZACHARIAS

Luke 1:6-26 NKJV And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. [7] But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren,



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and they were both well advanced in years. [8] So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, [9] according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. [10] And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. [11] Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. [12] And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. [13] But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. [14] And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. [15] For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. [16] And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. [17] He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." [18] And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years." [19] And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. [20] But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time." [21] And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. [22] But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless. [23] So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. [24] Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, [25] "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people." [26] Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

IN THE MEANTIME ANOTHER PLAN IS UNFOLDING IN THE TOWN OF NAZARETH

✔ The angel appears to Mary

Luke 1:28,30,33,35-36 NKJV And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" [30] Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. [33] And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." [35] And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. [36] Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.

... Pointing out that John's purpose was to get the Jews and gentiles hearts ready for Jesus the coming messiah, Jesus' purpose was to reign over Jacob the church.

Two very different ministries yet one supported the other, which talks about how you staying in your lane and being focused on what you are meant to do...and both needed the power of the



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Holy Spirit to be upon them to fulfill their purpose.

DUE TIME

Luke 1:57 NKJV Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son.

1. When it's time to birth the vision God gave you, He will birth it....!
2. People will know that God has been gracious, that's why he uses people the least of these,.... and they will be glad for you at that point.

Luke 1:58 NKJV When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her.

3. Until the vision is delivered, we are in a process...it needs to be registered on our hearts and on the hearts of those that support and influence you in your life. Once delivered now there is an expectation everyone gathers around in pomp and ceremony.

Luke 1:59 NKJV So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias.

4. Their hearts are right wanting you to do what is the norm ie. Custom, tradition and culture BUT you have to do what God says...Convincing OBEDIENCE

Luke 1:60 NKJV His mother answered and said, "No; he shall be called John."

5. There will be shock and contention regarding this...'what no one has done that!?'

Luke 1:61 NKJV But they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name." "What?" they exclaimed. "There is no one in all your family by that name."

6. They will find ways to pull your discussion apart. Even undermine the unity that's in place using every means to question your decision, even play you up against each other.

Luke 1:62 NKJV So they made signs to his father—what he would have him called.

7. You have to make it very clear what God has told you to do, even if you have to take different measures to be heard.

Luke 1:63 NKJV And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, "His name is John." So they all marveled.

8. It will shock everyone... when God does something it will never be ordinary.
9. When you act in obedience, God will be released and there will be an atmosphere of praise... joy... in your own heart, a liberation from the act of obedience that enables you to praise God as He confirms His word.

Luke 1:64 NKJV Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God.



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10. When God does something it is nothing but amazing, He uses the unusual to do the 'out of the ordinary' and it will spread like wildfire.

Luke 1:65 NKJV Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea.

11. This will cause people to stop and look and think about what's happening....and ask about what's to be

Luke 1:66 NKJV And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, "What kind of child will this be?" And the hand of the Lord was with him.

12. What will be clear is that the hand of God is upon you.

A. When God talks to you it's on another level, He speaks through His spirit, because of our humanity we don't always understand what it's going to be, but spending time in His presence allows His Holy Spirit to carry and nurture His plan until it's ready to be delivered...Often when we are carrying a vision or a plan that God wants to bring forth... it precedes the next thing that is coming.

The way he thinks is another level... so expect it to be different.

Isaiah 55:8-9 NKJV "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. [9] "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

We see how Strategic God is when He plans things....and how when His plans unfold they are always connected together... they also always affect and empower everyone around you in His kingdom for the better, it's a ripple effect.

B. You see the next step of His salvation plan unfolding here. John preparing the way and the hearts of the Jews and gentiles whose mindset was still in the law, for Jesus to come and bring Grace to His Church. Jesus who comes to reign over the house of Jacob ... His church. Two powerful ministries with different mandates with God's timing.

✓ Displaying how everyone in the Kingdom is mandated to the ultimate plan of God even while God answers their prayers, no matter how long it takes, we can never know how it will pan out but the answer will come.

It's a matter of surrender...of the humble heart and keeping the vision before you, **always renewing your focus.**

Luke 1:26-27,36-37 NKJV Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, [27] to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. [36] Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. [37] For with God nothing will be impossible."



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- ✔ No matter how it looks in the natural don't discount what God can do...

NOT FORGOTTEN

God encourages Mary assuring her Liz is half way, with child... the angel tells Mary as he appears. No matter how things look or what people say, Gods will use their words against them

- C. While you are waiting for your word from God to go full term God finds a way to encourage you to continue patiently as you wait. Not only that, while you wait... He starts the preparation of the next part of His redemption plan. And it here we need to keep perspective about their purposes. So often we get thrown by what God's doing in someone else's life! Refocus on what you're doing.

Luke 1:39-40 NKJV Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, [40] and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

- D. To know it's from Him there will be a confirmation and you will know without a shadow of doubt that God's doing this...they knew each from the womb.

Luke 1:41 NKJV And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

- E. Elizabeth merely heard the greeting of Mary when she felt the baby leap. You will sense the joy of what God is doing in your life and it will encourage you to keep going as each step becomes clearer.

Luke 1:42 NKJV Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

- F. The Holy Spirit will empower you to go all the way.

Luke 1:44-45 NKJV For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. [45] Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."

You are part of something great

Firstly John the Baptist was a forerunner to Jesus, God's plan is continuous, regardless of what it is He is calling you to... it will be followed up with something greater... understand you are part of something great while there is something greater still to come. Many people think it stops with them that's why the vision begins to stagnate. They come to the end so they think God comes to the end, putting aside ideas and plans because they think it's pointless.

You see this so many times in marriages...

MARRIAGES

Work together

When he called you into your Marriage it was for a purpose with a vision together. He allowed you to live your vision out but now it's time to RENEW that vision with Him. The reason why many



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marriages are dry and stagnant is because it no longer has vision. Zach & Liz's marriage was barren... they were both serving the Lord but dutifully not passionately, with vision. Until the angel appears with something so astounding that Gabriel had to silence Zach so he didn't mess it up... now he had to go home and find a new way to communicate with Liz and her with him. Firstly to explain what's happened and secondly to work together and not jeopardize things until delivery date.

Shell shocked

After Zachariah heard the Lord... sometimes men are dumbstruck when there is a new plan... ladies! Whoop whoop! Zach now had to find a way to communicate with Liz whilst the vision was unfolding so to not destroy it. Couples become complacent and impatient with each other....

Be nice or Zip it

How many of us have to find a way to not sabotage the vision with our mouths until it comes to pass. When it did come to pass Zacharias wrote a praise song.

- ✓ Elizabeth believed
- ✓ Mary believed ... they were blessed because they believed
- ✓ Mary wrote a praise song to rejoice
- ✓ Zachariah wrote a praise song to the Lord afterwards
- ✓ The Holy Spirit confirmed it
- ✓ It grew big and strong

What is it to be?

You need to know what God wants you to say when it comes to pass.

Follow through

Find another way to communicate to them.

Luke 1:63-64 NKJV And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, "His name is John." So they all marveled. [64] Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God.

Praising God Lands you on the pin... God will release it all when you in one act of obedience, praise Him.

The thing is that when you have a vision and you remain focused and obedient there is favour and grace to make the tough call... The people knew that this was God...

Please note that we may spend a lot of time in the desert growing strong, while we wait for the manifestation.

Luke 1:80 NKJV So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.



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OFFENSE

✔ Don't take your eyes off Jesus

We go on to see how John preaches and prepares the people's hearts and the way for Jesus, until he gets OFFENDED and sends his disciples to go ask Jesus 'Who are you?' He knew who Jesus was because they knew each other from the womb!

When we take our eyes off what we are called to do, we open the door for offence to come in. ESPECIALLY husbands and wives....!! Offence is a deterrent from you reaching your goals and vision. Offence will make you ill and contaminate what God wants to do in your heart— keep it soft so that you can hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. Offence is a killer and will take you right out of the running...

We see that John's offence gets him beheaded; his testimony is stolen from him. He does not get the recognition he deserves for his ministry.

John may have been beheaded anyway, but the difference is that instead of having a testimony of triumph in death, he died defeated by the hand of Herod whose wife found a way to be rid of him.

**When the enemy gets a foot in the door with offences it hardens your heart against the vision that you have been called to and even though you may finish, it compromises your testimony. REMAIN MUTE— KEEP UR HEART SOFT- don't lose your testimony

They knew each other from womb— You Know!

Keeping your eyes on Jesus brings you right out to the end and allows the power of the Holy Spirit to move and empower you to renew your vision, A VISION THAT'S PERHAPS DIED... when there was no catch after preaching to the crowds Jesus said to Peter cast the nets out on the other side, ...and the catch was great, Peter didn't want to but his heart softened and he obeyed. Nothing else has worked has it!? Just try and do it God's way...

Your vision will grow; lives will be impacted..., what seems impossible in the natural is possible with God.

A renewed vision will growflourish and the people shall be blessed because they were strong in spirit

God's presence and prayer creates an atmosphere for transformation, it renews your mind, keeping your heart open, so that renewal and re-vision is possible.

You can press the mute button when it comes to protect what God is birthing. Find new ways to communicate with each other. Keep focused on what you need to be doing, not on what others are doing. Don't be afraid. Write the new name down. Change the custom and culture. Break tradition; do it heavens way. Offence will cause you to throw away your testimony even if you are right. Just because it's old it doesn't have to be done for!

Renew your vision God's not finished with you yet...What do you need to do to get fired up again?



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