

Immanuel!

By Richard Crisco

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Michele Gunn – URGENT....COMPLETE healing of cancer. “Dear Friends - This past Tuesday, we were told the cancer had invaded Michele's liver, abdomen, and possibly her bowel. All treatment has been suspended. Doctors have estimated she may be with us only 60 days. She is down to 105 lbs and can no longer ingest food. She receives nourishment through a port in her chest. I brought her home from the hospital last Sunday. All care will now be given in our home. I am thankful all our kids and grandkids are nearby. Our daughter and her family came in from South Africa a few days ago. We have not given up on God's miraculous intervention. We also trust Him implicitly and know our lives are completely His. Your prayers and friendship are so deeply appreciated.” - John W. Gunn

Names reveal Character, Nature and Will of God.

Lk 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 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 "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.

**Mary was not only a virgin – Pure and innocent.
He was valiant – Strong and Courageous!**

She had to bear the weight of false shame which the society would heap upon her for being with child outside of marriage! (Especially the Religious Crowd!)

Jn 8:41 You are doing the things your own father does." "We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself."

We must be slow to pass judgment and quick to help!

Mt 7:1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. 3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Lk 6:36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Joseph was equally Godly and Strong!

Mt 1:18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"-- which means, "God with us." 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Joseph was willing to take the heat of false accusations (again from the religious zealots) to protect and stand with Mary!

Joseph was more concerned about obeying God than he was his own "good name" or reputation!

Joseph was willing to protect Mary and be falsely blamed. (Did Mary's family even believe her?)

Key Point: The stronger you are in Christ – the more He will trust you with!

You can tell how Mature you are in Christ
By the level of the test He gives you!

How could Mary and Joseph handle the pressure?

a. Mature

Maturity has nothing to do with physical age!

b. Divine Encounters and Empowerment!

Without the supernatural divine encounters they could not have survived!

Note: A supernatural encounter will attract trouble!

The devil and the world will attack and attempt to steal your victory in Christ!

Jesus – "He will save his people from their sins."

21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Who: He – Jesus

What: Will Save & Will Save FROM

Save Who: His people

Save from what: "THEIR" sins.

23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"-- which means, "God with us." 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him

God is with us:

1. Be not afraid!
2. Be Pure!

Wake Up! Do what He Commands!