**Building Core Strength**

**Quiet Strength**

**Developing Strong Faith[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Luke 1:35-49**

**Romans 5:12** - *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men…*

**Psalm 138:3** - *On the day I called, You answered me; You made me bold with strength in my soul*

3 characteristics of quiet strength from two outstanding women

**I. Quiet Strength Takes God at His Word**

A. God has always called on people to come to Him by faith

**Galatians 2:20** - *I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

**Romans 5:1** - *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

**Hebrews 11:6** - *And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

**Ephesians 2:8**-**9** - *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

B. God often provides evidence to help us believe Him

**Romans 10:17** - *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*

1. The conception of John the Baptist

**Luke 1:7** - *But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years.*

**Luke 1:25** - *This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked with favor upon me, to take away my disgrace among men.*

2. The response of John the Baptist in Elizabeth's womb to the presence of Jesus in Mary's womb

**Luke 1:41** - *When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.*

**Luke 1:44** - *“For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.”*

**Genesis 25:21**-**23** - *Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived. But the children struggled together within her; and she said, “If it is so, why then am I this way?” So she went to inquire of the Lord. The Lord said to her, “Two nations are in your womb; and two peoples will be separated from your body; and one people shall be stronger than the other; and the older shall serve the younger.”*

**Psalm 14:1** - *The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; there is no one who does good.*

C. Both women took God at His Word

1. Mary

**Luke 1:39** - *Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.*

**Luke 1:36**-**38** - *And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. "For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, the bondslave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.*

2. Elizabeth

**Luke 1:42** - *And she cried out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!”*

**II. Quiet Strength Acknowledges the Depth of One's Need**

A. Elizabeth knew she needed "a Lord"

**Luke 1:43** - *And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me?*

B. This is one of the essential roles of the Holy Spirit

1. Prior to the New Testament church

a. John

**Luke 1:15** - *For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother’s womb.*

b. Mary

**Luke 1:35** - *The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.”*

c. Elizabeth

**Luke 1:41**-**42** - *When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. And she cried out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!”*

**John 20:29** - *Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”*

2. His purposes today

a. He convicts people of their need

**John 16:8** - *And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;*

b. He calls people to Jesus

**John 16:14** - *“He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.*”

c. He empowers us to believe and obey

**Galatians 5:16** - *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.*

**John 7:17** - *“If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.”*

**III. Quiet Strength Encourages Others as They Believe**

**Luke 1:44**-**45** - *For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.*

1. Steve Viars [↑](#footnote-ref-1)