

## Birthing a Move of God

2 Examples of a Move of God:

Ex: 2 Kings chapters 22-23 Josiah and the found Covenant

When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes.

2 Kings 22:11

Acts 2:42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Why use the word Birthing?

Isaiah 66:9

Shall I bring to the point of birth and not cause to bring forth?" says the Lord; "shall I, who cause to bring forth, shut the womb?" says your God.

When you get saved (born again), you are a move of God that is birthed.

God is ready to birth something but he needs laborers

Matthew 9:37-38

he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Today we are going to use stories from the scripture about natural births that God made possible supernaturally as object lessons for birthing a move of God. We are going to look specifically at the births of those babies through whom God brought about a community wide move of God.

Age doesn't matter (Abraham, Zechariah)

Genesis 18:9-14

They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." The Lord said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. Now Abraham

and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

Luke 1:8-17

Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. **And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will 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 for the Lord a people prepared.**"

2 Chronicles 7:14

Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.

Are you still MY PEOPLE after you hit retirement age?

Joel 2 PROMISES your old men will dream dreams

So age doesn't matter  
But also

Experience doesn't matter

Luke 1:26-35

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your

womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” And **Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;** therefore the child to be born will be called holy— the Son of God.

Teenagers, brand new Christians, people getting saved today, you can birth a move of God.

How? The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

Failure doesn't matter

Hannah

Elkanah had 2 wives, Hannah and Peninnah.

Hannah was barren. Peninnah would mock.

I've tried it, it didn't work. I couldn't produce. I was humiliated

Ever been there?

I went for God but nothing happened

(infertility) I prayed and there was no healing.

We contended for revival for 20 years!

Maybe other believers looked down on you

She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly.

1 Samuel 1:10

Guess what. God answered her prayer. Her son was Samuel!!

When things don't happen keep pressing into Jesus. He REALLY LIKES IT!

Luke 18:1

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

Persistent widow story

Luke 18:7-8

7 And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8 I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Will he find faith when revival hasn't happened yet?

Hold on, press in, go for it, don't stop

Shall I bring to the point of birth and not cause to bring forth?" says the Lord;

Age, Experience, Failure, none of those can stop you from birthing a move of God.

Family history or identity:

Ruth 1:15-16

And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

Are you willing to accept a new identity?

Isaiah 11:1

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

My family tree is not a thriving, fruit bearing tree. It's basically a stump. Like Jesse's tree over time.

You might even accidentally birth a move of God by just MAKING ROOM for what God wants to do.

2 Kings 4:8-17

One day Elisha went on to Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, who urged him to eat some food. So whenever he passed that way, he would turn in there to eat food. And she said to her husband, "Behold now, I know that this is a holy man of God who is continually passing our way. Let us make a small room on the roof with walls and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that whenever he comes to us, he can go in there." One day he came there, and he turned into the chamber and rested there. And he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite." When he had called her, she stood before him. And he said to him, "Say now to her, 'See, you have taken all this trouble for us; what is to be done for you? Would you have a word spoken on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?'" She answered, "I dwell among my own people." And he said, "What then is to be done for her?" Gehazi answered, "Well, she has no son, and her husband is old." He said, "Call her." And when he had called her, she stood in the doorway. And he said, "At this season, about this time next year, you shall embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord, O man of God; do not lie to your servant." But the woman conceived, and she bore a son about that time the following spring, as Elisha had said to her.

2 Kings 4:8-17

37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'  
Matthew 25:37-40

Let's look at this verse yet again

Isaiah 66:9

Shall I bring to the point of birth and not cause to bring forth?" says the Lord; "shall I, who cause to bring forth, shut the womb?" says your God.

This is a call to faith while you wait for God's promises

Faith is not taking actions that do not depend on God to bring about a promise of God. That is a forced and fake move of God.

Genesis 16:1-2

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

Band, eloquent speaker, programs??

Or this way instead: a tiny bit of faith God WILL bring it about (Isaiah 66:9) as you humble yourself and pray and seek his face and do the stuff that pleases HIM! Not the stuff that pleases the crowds.

It takes time (9 months for a human)

Psalm 130:5-7

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

Birthing a move of God is not convenient. Mary was pregnant during the national census

It is not popular

Matthew 1:18-19

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

It is painful and requires sacrifice  
Especially just before the birth

Romans 8: 18-19, 22 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

Birth pains, labor, pressing on and pressing in, giving up those things that hold me back, knowing what's to come

For the joy set...

It's not over when the baby is born

You may need to run to Egypt  
A move of God may bring about persecution

You might have to stop squabblings (Eve)  
The move of God brings people together and people are messy - is it worth it?  
Is having children who love you but occasionally squabble better than if they were never born?

You may need to sacrifice the whole thing because God has to be first (Isaac)

You might love your ministry more than you love Jesus

You have to parent a move of God  
Mary had to parent Jesus! She fed him and protected him and cleaned him and changed diapers. Even though He was saving the planet.

In the same way we have to parent a move of God. Meaning, you don't stop the work once revival comes. You keep the flames burning by maintaining the work of love.

You may have to entrust it to others.  
Jochebed (Moses' mom)

Exodus 2:3

When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank.

The move of God may still be comprised of very imperfect people (Samson)  
Some people may walk in the anointing of God but not the character

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

In summary

Age doesn't matter

Inexperience doesn't matter

Failure doesn't matter

But it does require labor

In prayer, in loving service

It requires maintaining faith while you wait

It may require losing popularity

It may require learning to love the unlovable.

But just like an infertile woman miraculously having a child, it will be worth it.

What joy to see people come into peace, into their destiny, into love. To see shame broken. Hearts healed. Addictions ended. Family members transformed into totally different people.