

Stages of Revelation

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Knowing God's Voice

Text: Luke 1:26-47

God promises revelation **knowledge** to His followers. This means that He will reveal divine plans, wisdom and knowledge concerning the circumstances of life. **Isaiah 30:21**

When God reveals a plan there is a developmental **process** that we go through as we work on understanding what He is doing.

Mary passes through these stages as God's marvelous plan is revealed to her.

Stage # 1 – Being **perplexed** **Luke 1:28-29**

To be perplexed is to be troubled, confused or disturbed. Most times, when God is revealing His plans and purposes to us, our first response is to experience a feeling of uneasiness. He permits us to be troubled to get our attention. Often, we question disturbing circumstances that are happening to us. This is why the angel Gabriel spoke kindly and favorably to Mary. When God is revealing something to you, one of the things He will do is make sure you are **reassured**.

If we are happy, content and comfortable in our circumstances we would not seek Him for new direction or for understanding. Notice that the angel did not even tell Mary what was being planned yet. She was troubled just by the greeting. God has to get us out of our **comfort** zone in order for us to be ready to receive what He is going to do in us and through us. I have found that whenever God is getting ready to do something, I get **disturbed**. There is something about God stirring things around that prepares us for what He is going to say.

Stage # 2 – Revelation or the **unveiling**. **Luke 1:30-31**

Once God has our undivided attention, He will reveal His plan to us. In the natural when God is going to reveal things to us, we may experience fear. Mary experienced fear even before she was given the plan. Many people give up on God's plan before the revelation even happens because of the fear of anticipation. Notice how quickly Gabriel speaks peace into Mary's life.

Fear is a natural response when our flesh interacts with the supernatural. The angel, Gabriel, reminded Mary that she had the ability to **control** her fear. 365 times in the Bible we are commanded not to fear. This is once for everyday of the year. This is an indicator how often we will encounter the opportunity to choose to walk in fear or to walk in peace.

Remember, God promises that if we seek Him and if we call out to Him, that He would **reveal** some pretty amazing things. **Jeremiah 33:3** God showed Mary that she was going to be the mother of the Messiah and that she was to call His name Jesus.

Stage # 3 – On the heel of revelation, there will often be **hesitation**. **Luke 1:34**

This is something that should not come as a surprise to anyone. Hesitation is not unbelief. Hesitation is the part of the process where we ask God some legitimate **questions** and express our concerns.

When God reveals a plan, you may feel that it is too great a step of **faith** to take.

When God reveals a plan, we will think of all the **rational** reasons that it cannot work.

Two things happen in the stage of hesitation –

- We present all of our questions, reasons and **excuses**. **Acts 9:10-15**
- God answers these with details of His plan. **Exodus 3:1-14**

There are several excuses that drive our hesitation:

- 1) I am not **good** enough. Who am I that God would choose me? **Exodus 3:11**
God has always chosen the most unlikely people to do the most extraordinary things. Jonah, Gideon, Peter, Paul a teenager in Mary. **1 Corinthians 1:25-29**
- 2) I don't have all of the **answers**. **Exodus 3:13**
- 3) People won't **believe** me. **Exodus 4:1** Being vulnerable can be a scary thing.
- 4) I am a terrible communicator. **Exodus 4:10** God doesn't call the flawless to do His work. He takes the humble and works His flawless plan through our cracked and broken vessels. **Revelation 12:11, 1 Corinthians 2:1-2, Isaiah 28:10-11**
- 5) When God reveals a new direction for our lives we are often overwhelmed and may even feel **unqualified**. Remember God always qualifies the called. Moses' final excuse is desperate. "Please, anyone but me!" Not everyone is an Isaiah not even Moses. **Isaiah 6:8-11** Notice that even the gung-ho Isaiah had some questions.

Some hesitate longer than others. Some people can spend precious years at this stage in the process. At some point we must move on from our insecurities, questions and concerns and choose to trust God.

Stage # 4 – After we hesitation, we will have one of two responses, either **acceptance** or rejection. **Luke 1:38**

Some call this stage resignation and not acceptance. The idea of resignation means to go along without a real desire or commitment. To accept God's plan means to be all in and to become a willing participant instead of a reluctant bystander in what God is doing. Mary gave up her own plans and accepted God's new and miraculous plan for her life.

The story of Jonah shows us what happens when we reject God's plan. Jonah wound up following God's plan but only after much convincing. We can see how amazing God is as we willingly engage in His will or we can be recipients of His **discipline** as we learn to embrace His plans and purposes.

Stage # 5 – This is the stage of **verification**. **Luke 1:45**

In this stage, God confirms and verifies His plan. Even with God, it is ok that we trust but verify.

Gideon wanted God to verify His promises **before** he went out and did what God told him to do. This is why Gideon verified with the fleece. Overnight God revealed Himself in the affirmative.

Mary received her verification through a miracle **conception**. Mary became pregnant and the revelation was confirmed in her body. **Luke 1:35 (AMP)** The Holy Spirit overshadowed her. This is beautiful. What the Holy Spirit did was private, powerful and holy. The Holy Spirit overshadowed all of Mary and everything in her life. The same will be true of us. When God reveals His plans, they will supersede and overpower any of our plans, excuses, questions and impossibilities and make His Word active.

Stage # 6 – This is a time of praise or **exaltation**. **Luke 1:46-55**

When we accept God's plan for our lives it will always bring about praise and satisfaction. Notice that Mary not only praised, but she began to prophesy. There is nothing like living the fulfilment of what God has promised.

Stage # 7 – This is **living out** the promise or revelation.

God made Mary pregnant with promise. Once she gave birth to the promise, she had the privilege of watching the promise grow and mature into what it was supposed to accomplish. Many times, our revelation will have amazing high points and low points. Mary walked with Jesus from His birth to His death and His resurrection. Revelation brings with it laughter and tears. If we will trust God, it will always be worth it.