



## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Week of April 17 & 18, 2021*

*Please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.*

### **Sermon Text**

Luke 1:39-45

***39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be[g] a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."***

*If you were not able to listen to this week's sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiiikaichurch.org/sermononline>*

### **Summary**

In our passage today, Mary visits Elizabeth and finds encouragement, assurance and confirmation in the fellowship of her relative. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, humbly acknowledges that Mary is carrying in her womb the coming Messiah. Even baby John in Elizabeth's womb is filled with the Holy Spirit and leaps for joy in the presence of the unborn Messiah. We learn from these passages the importance of faith building fellowship and the Christ-exalting role the Holy Spirit plays in the life of believers.

## Discussion Questions

1. When Mary first enters Elizabeth's home, Luke tells us that Elizabeth, full of the Holy Spirit, exclaims that the baby in Mary's womb is indeed the Lord! In spite of Mary's already strong belief, this confirmation of God's Word must have skyrocketed her faith. Explain how Christian fellowship, centered around the experienced truth of God's Word, is faith building in the lives of believers. On the flip side, how would you explain the danger of forsaking the gathering together of believers to someone who doesn't believe that coming to church is important?
2. Mary is a teenaged virgin while Elizabeth is an old barren woman - yet both are pregnant. They share the miracle of God's work in their lives, and in spite of their vast age difference, were both blessed and strengthened by one another's company. What does this tell us about Christian fellowship that spans generations? What is the main element, the key ingredient, in faith building fellowship?
3. The Holy Spirit's role is to glorify and reveal Christ and to make much of Him. John Piper calls the Holy Spirit the "shy member of the Trinity" who never puts Himself in the limelight, but instead shines the limelight on the attributes of God the Father and God the Son. What should this tell us about people who try to exalt just the work of the Holy Spirit - being slain in the Spirit, Spirit induced holy laughter - while at the same time, neglecting the Person of Jesus Christ? If not Jesus, who are these people trying to glorify? With this in mind, how should a Christian, who is truly filled with the Holy Spirit, act and behave?
4. Mary was blessed because she believed, and this is true for every person who truly believes God's Word and the truth of His Gospel. In Luke 11:27 Jesus says, blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it. How do you know if a person truly believes in the Word of God? Do you believe that living for Jesus Christ is way more freeing, joyous and satisfying than living for yourself? If so, how does this belief show in your life and do you consider yourself truly blessed?

5. What does this passage tell us about the spirituality of women in the Word of God? How do you think this might encourage women in the church today?