

# DAY 8

# SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

**Our theme for today: Strength from God's revelation.**

As we look over the passage again, we note how the words of God, the revelation of God to Joseph emboldened him and strengthened him.

## Scripture

*<sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do 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 as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.*

*Matthew 1:20-25*

## Thought provokers

- The revelation that came to Joseph changed him. It emboldened him. It strengthened him.
  - Did Joseph just have some inner strength to change – was he just the kind of personality that could change, was he more special than we are, or were the words of God the source of his transformation?
  - How about your situation? Is it by your power that things change? How have you experienced God's revelation and how has it transformed you?

## Reflections

God is with us – this is the revelation of God. It's a startling revelation, isn't it! The God who made the heavens and the earth, who can hold back the water, who can summon the sun and the moon – He is with us! It's not just a declaration, though is it? It's embodied in the person of Jesus. He shall be called Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us." More than just words on a page, every time we think of Jesus we can be reminded, "God is with us."

As God is with us, He provides supernaturally in ways that we cannot for ourselves. And why would God be with us? Why would God determine to spend His time, His energy, and His resources with us? Because God loves us! In His love, He made us in His image and in His likeness, we are His workmanship, we are a holy people, we are a royal priesthood, we are a people of His own choosing – He wants none to perish.

We are strengthened by His revelation! The events that have been revealed to us regarding Joseph and Mary, that the Spirit that brought about this child in Mary is the same Spirit that lives in you and me. Yes! The Spirit that lives and affects the lives of Joseph and Mary is the same Spirit that lives and affects us. The Spirit reminds us that our past is redeemed, that our present makes sense and that our future is secure.

Joseph, though he was a righteous man, was not exempt from facing difficulties, challenges and trials. But when Joseph woke up to the reality of what God was doing – everything changed. He then takes a journey of discovery not knowing what still lies ahead, but he knows that no matter what twist or turn, God would be there to provide power and peace, that God would bring light to whatever darkness he might stumble across.

If you feel you are in the dark or in the shadows, God's Word is already there to reveal to you all His love, His plans, His promises for you. If you open His pages, if you desire to receive His love, God will awake you! He will bring you light! There is strength from God's revelation.

#### Prayer and Song

Take time to pray and sing praises to Him. Here is one by Sandi Patty.

#### ***The Name of the Lord***

*Crowds have lined the narrow street  
To see this man from Galilee  
Just a carpenter some say, leading fools astray  
Yet many kneel to give Him praise*

*Your strength through weakness to show  
We can know the masters plan extend the  
masters hand  
When we come in the name of the Lord*

*And in His eyes, they glimpse the power  
That sees the heart of all men  
And He knows His Father's mind  
He speaks His Father's words  
For He comes in the name of the Lord*

*There is strength in the name of the Lord  
There is power in the name of the Lord  
There is hope in the name of the Lord  
Blessed is He, who comes in the name of the  
Lord*

*There is strength in the name of the Lord  
There is power in the name of the Lord  
There is hope in the name of the Lord  
Blessed is He, who comes in the name of the  
Lord*

*His name will be worshiped forever  
Creator, Redeemer and King  
There is strength in the name of the Lord  
There is power in the name of the Lord  
And there is hope in the name of the Lord  
Blessed is He, who comes, blessed is He, who  
comes  
Blessed is He, who comes in the name of the  
Lord  
The name of the Lord*

*When my plans have fallen through  
And when my strength is nearly gone  
When there's nothing left to do but just depend  
on You  
And the power of Your name  
And as we call upon Your name*