OPENING
MY HEART
TO
LISTEN

8 WoL

WORD OF LIFE

« Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled. »

Lk 1:45

From the commentary of Chiara Lubich
Adapted by the Gen 3 Center

Under the magnifying glass...

This is the first beatitude of the Gospel that refers to Mary, but it also refers to all those who want to follow her and imitate her.

In Mary, there is a close bond between faith and maternity, since she became our mother by *believing* in God's Word. In this passage, Luke tells us that we can do the same. And further ahead in his Gospel, Jesus says, **"My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it."**

After Jesus, **Mary** is the one who most perfectly **said "yes" to God. Her sanctity and her greatness** lie above all in this. **Jesus** is the Word, the **incarnate Word**, but **Mary**, because of her faith in the Word, is the **Word lived out**, put into practice, even though she is **a human being like us.**

Mary's role as the mother of God is lofty and magnificent.

But she is not the only one God calls to bring Christ to life within themselves. Every Christian has that task. We have to "incarnate" Christ, make him live in us, so that we can say with St. Paul,

"It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."

But how can we do this?

By having the same attitude that Mary had toward the Word of God – by being totally open to it.

Therefore, to believe, with her, that all the promises contained in the words of Jesus will be fulfilled, and to be like her in facing, if necessary, the sometimes absurd consequences that come from putting his words into practice.

Wonderful things always happen to those who believe in the Word – big things, small things. We could fill books with experiences that prove this!

This month I want to keep track of all the times I lived the Culture of Giving and experienced the truth of the words, "Give and you will receive."

This is what happened to… Stella (from Cameroon, Africa)

Lending one thing after another

One day I noticed that we had nothing to eat in our house, and we didn't have any more money either. **But even though I was really hungry, I kept loving,** and when a friend from school knocked on our door, asking for some salt, I gave it to her, and I did the same for a neighbor lady.

My sister didn't agree with what I was doing and told me, "You're impossible! We don't have anything to eat and you keep giving!" I explained to her that I loved Jesus in each person who came to our door, but she still didn't agree. A little while later, another neighbor came and asked for some kerosene. **My sister kept quiet, waiting to see what I would answer.** I felt in my heart that Jesus was telling me, "If you really live the Gospel, love this neighbor and give her what she needs." So I did. **A few hours later, a friend of the family brought us an envelope from my father, who was working far away. It was full of money!!**

Send your experiences to our Forum at:
www.teens4unity.org