

Devotion — Love Lifted Me When God Opens Wombs and Doors

By Rev. Dr. Debra A. Whitlock Lax, Allen-St. John AME Church

“Love lifted me.” That hymn line is more than a lyric — it is the rhythm of God’s work in barren places. I know that place. I had carried life four times and lost four precious souls in a previous marriage. I had one living child from that marriage, and later married again. My second husband and I wondered why we weren’t conceiving. Seven years passed with no child. Doctors discovered my husband had low sperm production and he underwent surgery. The doctor said we should conceive within six months. A year came and went. Nothing.

We moved toward adoption. A cousin agreed to let us adopt her baby. We agreed to adopt her baby only if she would care for the child for thirty days at our home. If she was still willingly to give away her baby, we would adopt her. We walked with her through seven months of pregnancy. We took Lamaze classes. We prepared a nursery. Then she changed her mind.

Imagine my disappointment. I had grown tired of promises that didn’t land. I remember sitting in a church meeting with my feet up on a chair — out of character for me — and First Lady Darlene Bobo noticed the change in me. She spoke a clear word of hope and declared I was pregnant. I dismissed it; I had grown weary of words that didn’t come true. Two weeks after my cousin left with the baby we had hoped to adopt, I went to my OB-GYN and learned I was pregnant. On November 6, 1989, **Evelyn M. Lax** was born. God’s love lifted me out of that long season of waiting and disappointment.

Let us be reminded that God opening up wombs is nothing new:

- **Sarah** waited many years; in God’s timing she bore Isaac (see **Genesis 21:1–2**).
- **Rebekah** was barren until God answered Isaac’s prayer and she conceived twins (see **Genesis 25:21**).
- **Rachel** wept for children and the Lord remembered her; Joseph was born after seasons of sorrow (see **Genesis 30:22–24**).
- **Hannah** poured out her soul before the Lord and God gave her Samuel in answer to prayer (see **1 Samuel 1:27–28**).
- **Elizabeth** was barren until God moved in her old age and she bore John the Baptist (see **Luke 1:5–25; 57–58**).
- **Psalms 113:9** declares *God gives the barren woman a home and makes her a joyful mother of children.*

These passages form a faithful pattern: God sees the barren place, hears the cry, and brings life in His timing. I don’t believe that the womb of a woman is the only womb God opens and allows to birth. There are metaphorical wombs.

- **To the pastor staring at empty pews:** Don’t question God’s power or your anointing. God is not impotent. He knows the perfect time to add to His church – your assignment. He may be pruning what is toxic in your congregation so the people He brings in will flourish. Be encouraged — put your feet up and wait on the Lord to tell you to push; He is birthing a people, not merely filling seats. (See **Acts 2:47; John 10:16**.)

- **To the author with unpublished books in your heart:** The Lord speaks to authors. You have multiple books ready to be conceived and birthed. Put your feet up, listen, then put pen to paper and write. Watch God bring forth a masterpiece that's been waiting for this season. *(See Habakkuk 2:2.) By the way, I can help you bring your book to fruition (shameless plug).*

- **To the entrepreneur waiting for seed money:** Decide to move forward with dependance on God's seed. If God has given you a vision for a new business, he is more than able supply the provision. There is a great deal of work you must do before you need money. No more excuses...launch. Write the vision and make it plain. Then, Plant the vision you've been given. Believe that God will take your idea to uncharted depths and heights; He knows exactly what you need when you need it. You are not waiting for God; He is waiting for you to trust that he is elevating you. *(See Proverbs 16:3; Habakkuk 2:2–3.)*

- **To my barren sister:** Don't be barren in your thinking. There are children and youth around you who need a mother's heart. Adopt them into your life and watch God open the womb of your heart to birth untold numbers in the spiritual realm. Don't be surprised if He opens the womb of your body, too. I am living proof that God does the impossible. *(See Isaiah 66:9; Psalm 113:9.)*

What this means for you who are waiting

Sister, your story is not outside God's pattern of redemption. He meets us in the pit of despair, in the doctor's office, in the quiet of the night, and even in the awkwardness of a church meeting when someone else sees what we cannot. He is speaking to you in this missive as well. Sometimes He moves through surgery and medicine; sometimes through people who speak a prophetic word we don't receive at first; sometimes through closed doors that become the very path to blessing. Do not dismiss this devotion or the others you will read in the next several weeks. You've been asking to hear from God. Read until you believe God is hearing your cry – He heard you. Your losses are not wasted. Your tears are not unnoticed. God can — and does — turn barrenness into birth. *(See Romans 8:28; Isaiah 66:9.)*

My Prayer for all Women in Ministry

Lord Jesus, You who lift the lowly and bring life from dry places, meet every woman and every dream that waits. Turn sorrow into song, delay into testimony, and longing into joy. Give us eyes to see Your hand, ears to hear Your voice, and courage to step out when You say go. Strengthen our faith while we wait. In Jesus' name, amen.