



FRUITS of FERVENCY

James 5:16

"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

My name is Jose and I want to share a testimony that mutually belongs to my family. I have been a born-again Christian since January of 1998. Towards the end of my senior year of high school the gospel message was shared with me and I repented of my wicked life and turned to the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Later on in December of 1998, I met my future wife Claudia Denise. We began to communicate in a righteous, long distance relationship by phone and e-mail. As time went on we married on November 25th 2001. During courtship we made commitments to God and to each other. Those commitments were simple, mutually respected, and God favored! Of those commitments the ones that we held in high regard were prayer, our devotion to God, and no physical intimacy until our actual wedding night. I thank God that he has been able to give us a testimony that shows righteous Christian dating that is not motivated by sexual desire, but motivated by our love for God!

Our marriage grew strong and continues to grow stronger every day. In 2003 my wife and I decided we wanted to start a family. We began to pray for children. We began to try for the better part of 2003 to conceive, but nothing. My wife began to see a doctor and was diagnosed with PCOS (Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome). That is how we found out why nothing was happening. Polycystic ovary disease causes many different problems for females but the main condition is many small cysts in the ovaries. It affects a woman's ability to get pregnant. This was very disheartening, but as soon as we were educated she began treatment. She began to take fertility pills to increase the chance of conception. We tried for 6 months and the medicines did not work. The next step was to try fertility shots. We tried for 6 months and it did not work. The next option was surgery, which was our last option. After much prayer we decided to proceed with the surgery. The surgery took place and was successful! The Dr. had removed a great percentage of the cysts and encouraged us to try again for conception. We tried for 6 months and nothing.

It's now the start of 2004 and we began to get discouraged. It wasn't fair! Our desires and dreams to have a family seemed like they were being taken away from us. We felt hopeless and disappointed. At this point we really got on the offensive with this situation and began to declare God's promises. We began to draw closer to God in prayer, devotion, and service. We reminded God that though we are nothing but mere forgiven sinners, we had still consecrated our lives to Him! Our marriage and our relationship were rooted and planted on the Rock, which is Jesus Christ.

We petitioned His throne and pleaded for a miracle in our situation.

In the midst of our circumstance, Satan was quick to add to our discouragement. We would see friends that had four kids and one on the way; we would see other couples with similar barrenness suddenly become pregnant; others who weren't trying for kids become pregnant and we were still waiting for our turn. I remember my wife praying like Hannah did for a child. She promised God that if He would bless her with a child she would dedicate that child to the service of the Lord.

My wife said the same prayer in faith. My wife and I had many conversations and disputes about this circumstance. It finally boiled down to 2 conclusions: 1.) Maybe the Lord didn't want us to have children, 2.) Maybe the Lord didn't want us to have children...yet! So we began praying and speaking out in faith. "God we love you and we will always serve you. Whether we have children or not, we will lift you up!" As we began to proclaim this in our situation, our faith was rekindled. We didn't fret and concern ourselves so much with having children. We just believed that it would happen, but in God's time.

In early April 2004, we attended revival services at our church. We had a guest minister. He was a great preacher and a powerful testimony to our church. He reached out to many lost souls and prayed for the sick every night. The last night of the revival, he made a specific call to pray for women who were not able to have children but had a desire to bare children. We were reluctant at first, but with some motivation from some sisters at church, my wife, Claudia, made her way to be prayed for. The Evangelist prayed for her, specifically renouncing past involvement in false religions as well as forgiveness of those who may have hurt her in the past. It was an over-all powerful prayer of inner healing. The service was adjourned and we went home feeling victorious and hopeful.

By the end of April 2004, Claudia and I moved into our home and continued to try for children. One morning in May of 2004, Claudia was getting ready for work. She woke me up and she had the biggest grin across her face! She pulled out a pregnancy test that read positive! I immediately jumped out of bed and gave her a hug! But we didn't want to get our hopes up. She went to the Dr.'s office and they confirmed that she indeed was with child. We were ecstatic! We refused to believe the lies that Satan began throwing at us! Satan sent thoughts of miscarriages, etc. We stayed firm in God's blessing of this physical seed. On Saturday, January 15th, 2005 @ 7:00pm Claudia gave birth to Matthias Misael. We gave him a biblical name to bring glory to the goodness of God. The name Matthias is the name of the 13th disciple replacing Judas. Misael is the Spanish version of Mischak who was thrown in the fiery furnace yet still would not deny God despite his circumstance. We are forever grateful for the cross, salvation, forgiveness, and the healing power of God. He is still the same yesterday, today, and forever!

The Lord had shown my family His true power and ability to bring real healing.

~Jose

Texas