

**Ensure fellowship with God through 1 John 1:9**

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Luke 1:13-41**

(13) But the angel said to him, (Zacharias is in the temple performing the incense offering) "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. Archangel Gabriel makes a birth announcement. *We send cards. God sends an Archangel!*

(14) "You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. The joy & gladness is because John will fulfill God's will for his life.

(15) "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb. John's job of heralding the King requires divine enablement.



"...out from his mother's womb."

**John's Mission Statement (vs. 16-17) – to herald the coming of Jesus Christ.**

(16) "And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God.

(17) "It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, **TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN**, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as **to make ready a people prepared for the Lord**." John is to prepare the nation Israel to receive her promised Messiah.

John would have the enduement of the Spirit like Elijah did with the mission to turn the people back to the Lord.

**Zacharias's response -**

(18) Zacharias said to the angel, "How will I know this for certain? For I am an old man (aged) and my wife is advanced in years [advanced in her days]."

*Zacharias hears the message but he does not believe it!*

*Zacharias is suffering from a spiritual illness – **lack of faith**.*

*Faith applied to God's message should say, **AMEN!***

(19) The angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.

**Zacharias's disbelief -**

(20) "And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time."

**Zacharias is focused on the problem – not The Solution!**

There are insurmountable obstacles facing each one of us but when we focus on those obstacles we end up remarking at how good the message was...or the promise in God's word...but we maintain our focus on the problem instead of **THE SOLUTION**.

The reality of the problem has a greater hold on Zacharias than the reality of the problem solver. By placing his eyes on the Lord, Zacharias would have come to the conclusion that *all things are possible with God.*

It is not important to know how God will accomplish things only that He will.

Do we not have the same problem today securing the promises of the Word as solutions to our problems? We do not know HOW God will resolve our problem so we do not believe He WILL resolve our problem! **We find ourselves suffering from the same spiritual illness as Zacharias.** In fact, it is not important for us to know HOW God will accomplish what He has promised – only that He WILL accomplish what He has promised.

Regarding PRAYER and its impact on the *Protocol of Prayer* - we do not need to know how or when God will answer our prayers. We just need to trust that He will answer our request.

To do this we must have our eyes fixed upon the Lord and not on the insurmountable obstacles of life.

- *Principle* – It is better to focus on **Whom** instead of what.

Doubt knocks at the door [of the soul] with insurmountable obstacles of life yet faith responds because all things are possible with God. Faith moves the believer to pray to the living God.

(19) The angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, **and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.** Gabriel clarifies where he came from. Does Gabriel take offense? No – It's not his message. It's God's.

So it is that the pastor-teacher should not take offense to those who reject the message from the infallible Word of God.

If he is teaching the Word of God they are rejecting what God has to say!

- Lack of faith is tantamount to rejection of God's promises.
- John 14:13 "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
- How do you view that promise in the Word of God?
- Are you acting on faith when looking at that verse? Or do you harbor doubt?

**Faith expresses itself with importunate prayer!**

(20) "And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time."

**God's plan continues to unfold whether you believe or not.**

**God is going to accomplish His will – with or without you.**

**God's will can go through you (Phil 2:13) or run right over you.**

**POD** – As a spiritual illness lack of faith has adverse affects upon the believer.

Example: Zacharias (vs. 20) “...you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words...”

- So it is for us – when we fail to believe God’s message to us, resident in the infallible Word of God, we are going to be silent and unable to speak. Unable to speak to others who need to hear this message.
- Having that faith in God’s Word results in communicating the message of God and fulfilling the principle of **Carpe Occasio** to those who God brings into your life.

**The people waiting outside begin to have some concern . . .**

(21) The people were waiting for Zacharias, and were wondering at his delay in the temple.

(22) But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them; and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he kept making signs to them, and **remained mute**.

(23) When the days of his priestly service were ended, he went back home.

(24) After these days Elizabeth his wife became pregnant, and she kept herself in seclusion for five months, saying,

(25) "This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked with favor upon me, to take away my disgrace among men."

**Cultural note:** In the ancient world the inability to conceive and bear children was something that caused a woman to be looked down upon.

**Elizabeth faced this reproach.**

**Gabriel makes another birth announcement - -**

(26) Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,

(27) to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, **of the descendants of David...**

- Notice that Luke emphasizes the fact that Joseph is a descendent of David.
- Matthew’s gospel traces the royal right through Joseph whereas Luke’s gospel traces Mary’s lineage back to David.

...and the virgin's name was Mary.

(28) And coming in, he said to her, "**Greetings, favored one!** The Lord is with you."

“Greetings” - **χαίρω**  
CHAIRO – to rejoice; to be glad

“Favored one” - **χαριτόω**  
CHARITOO (verb form) – to bless or show favor upon

Correctly expressed as - “Rejoice God is showing favor upon you.”

(29) But she was very **perplexed...**

“Perplexed” - **διαταράσσω**  
DIATARASSO – confused

“Kept pondering” – **διαλογίζομαι**  
DIALOGIZOMAI – kept on considering; continued pondering

**“The Lord will be with you.”**

...at this statement, and **kept pondering** what kind of salutation this was.

(30) The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.

(31) "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

(32) "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; *Mary knows exactly what that means...*

(33) and He will reign over the house of Jacob **forever**, and His kingdom will have no end."

(34) Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

"A virgin" – literally "knowing no man"

- Mary is betrothed to Joseph which is a binding contract.
  - If broken by adultery, punishable by death – stoning; public disgrace.
- Is Mary focused on the **WHAT?** No – she believes the message but she does not understand how because she and Joseph have not sealed their marriage.
- She is thinking the descendent is coming through Joseph's seed – she is confused.

Mary knows this is the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant.

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Mary knows that she will bear a son and that this son will be the descendent of David that God will raise up to sit on David's throne and rule and eternal kingdom.

(35) The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

In the ancient world if someone was called "the son of a murdered" that individual was also a murderer. It was a way to express the son possessed the same essence of the father.

Jesus was called the "Son of God" expressing that He possessed His Father's divine essence. Jesus was Fathered by God because Mary's ovum was fertilized by the Holy Spirit – a supernatural conception.

Two entities united in one person for all eternity = The God-man.

(36) "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month.

(37) **"For nothing will be impossible with God."**

(38) And Mary said, "Behold, the bonds slave of the Lord (it's not about Mary, but the Lord); **may it be done to me according to your word.**" And the angel departed from her.

- Mary was malleable to whatever God decided for her!
- Note the level of her malleability in light of when she became pregnant the possibility existed that she may be stoned to death.
- She told Gabriel "I'm the Lord's to do with whatever He wills".
- A woman who has placed herself at the feet of the Lord.

You either believe that today or you don't.

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Your prayers may be very limited in light of your spiritual illness called **LACK OF FAITH.**

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Faith will bring petitions worthy to the throne room of grace to be answered by The Living God.

(39) Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah,

(40) and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

(41) When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

- John the Baptist is going to be filled with the Holy Spirit – required for his mission of announcing the coming of Messiah and preparing the nation to receive her promised King.
- Elizabeth is now filled with the Holy Spirit - because God is going to use her to communicate something to Mary.

“Was filled” – **πίμπλημι**

PIMPLEMI – to be satiated

Holy Spirit is going to manifest all that He can of Himself through Elizabeth.

**Luke 1:42-44**

(42) And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

(43) "And how has it happened to me that **the mother of my Lord** would come to me?

How in the world does Elizabeth know this? God the Holy Spirit

(44) "For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the **baby** leaped in my womb for joy.

“Baby” – **βρέφος**

BREPHOS- a fetus

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*All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.*