

**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.

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

**Luke 1**

- We are studying the gospel of Matthew, and spending some time in Luke
  - There are three synoptic gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke
  - Each gives us a synopsis of the life of Christ
    - There are some passages in Luke that are not present in Matthew

**Luke 1:56**

(56) And Mary stayed with her about three months, and *then* returned to her home.

- In preparation for the coming of the Messiah, there have been two angelic appearances (by Gabriel)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> to Zacharias
    - In the Temple
    - Zacharias had a LACK of faith; resulted in silencing of Zacharias
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> to Mary
    - In her house
    - Mary responded in FAITH
      - She heard of the miracle of Elizabeth's conception from Gabriel
      - Mary immediately traveled to Elizabeth's house
      - For 3 months, Mary stayed at the house of Zacharias and Elizabeth
- All three (Zacharias, Mary, and Elizabeth) know that Messiah is coming
  - The promised descendent of Abraham
  - Will rule a kingdom with heavenly principles
  - That John is the one who will prepare the nation to receive her King
  - Zacharias, because of his lack of faith is unable to speak for 9 months
    - **Luke 1:20** "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."
  - Mary responded wonderfully IN FAITH, expressing the epitome of malleability
    - **Luke 1:38** And Mary said, "Behold (IDOU; *see*), the bonds slave (DOULOS; servant, bond-servant) of the Lord; **may it be done to me according to your word.**" And the angel departed from her.
- Mary goes to Elizabeth's home and 4 things occur when she arrives
  - Elizabeth hears Mary's voice (aorist of AKOUO)
  - Elizabeth is filled with the Spirit (endowment)
  - Elizabeth experiences JOY
  - The fetus springs about in her womb (SKIRTAO)

- This is God's confirmation to Mary through Elizabeth that she has supernaturally conceived by God the Holy Spirit
  - Between the time that the Angel departed and the time she arrived at Elizabeth's house, God the Holy Spirit fertilized her ovum.
  - This is God's message to Mary through Elizabeth, that what the archangel Gabriel told her would happen has actually occurred.
- Mary responds with thanksgiving and praise (Luke 1: 46-55)
  - For three months there was wonderful fellowship and conversation about what the archangel had said
  - Zacharias was not allowed to participate in this fellowship because of his lack of faith

**POD** – Faith is a prerequisite to the privilege and honor of fellowshiping with believers about the Word of God.

It is an **honor, a privilege, and a blessing** to experience fellowship, and discuss the Word of God with like minded believers – FAITH is the prerequisite

- There is no price you can put on Bible Doctrine circulating in your stream of consciousness under the Filling of the Holy Spirit
  - Has an eternal and redeeming value
- Is the message a priority in your mind? At the forefront in your conversations?
- We can have enthusiasms and times of rest in life, but we must focus on what the Lord wants us to do when He wants us to do them
  - The leading ministry of God the Holy Spirit is your guide
  - The capacity to enjoy blessings without being captured by the Cosmos – comes from the love for the Word in our lives

The friendships you have with fellow believers who love the Word of God and are growing in it with you are priceless

**You can't buy capacity** - Capacity comes from your FAITH in the Word of God

- Justification – God declares the believing sinner righteous in His sight because he has received the imputed righteousness of God received at faith alone in Christ alone
  - Zacharias was not able to speak for nine months due to his lack of faith
  - Both he and Elizabeth were righteous in the eyes of the Lord
    - **Luke 1:6** They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord.
  - We have to depend on another to live the life that is worthy of our calling in Christ

**Gal 5:16**  
 (16) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Once you are **saved** by GRACE through FAITH, you must **live your life** by GRACE through FAITH

- Walking blameless in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord for the Church Age Believer
  - Are we doing what the believer is told to do in the New Testament Epistles?
  - **BASICS:**
    1. Rebound – stand at the ready to set things right with God when you know they are wrong

- **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.
- 2. Assembling with fellow believers – you need spiritual food for momentum
  - **Heb 10:25** not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.
- 3. Growing spiritually
  - **2 Peter 3:18** but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.
- 4. Observing the Lord's Table with fellow believers – the command to keep on doing this in remembrance of Him
  - **1 Cor 11:24-25**  
 (24) and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."  
 (25) In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."
- 5. Prayer
  - **Eph 6:18**  
 (18) With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

- We must not only “walk blameless” in the basics listed above, but also believe and trust in what is taught from the Word
- Fellowship with other believers is dependant upon two things
  - The Word being taught in the correct manner from the pulpit (with authority and conviction as a herald)
  - FAITH must be present in the pew
- An appreciation in the soul of the positive believer results in his desire to talk about it with fellow believers
  - Mary and Elizabeth spent three wonderful months talking about the Lord and God's message while Zacharias could do nothing but listen

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