

Advent Faith

Faith Crisis:

When prayers don't seem to be answered.

Luke 1:5-7 (NIV) “In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷ But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.”

Luke 1:13 (NIV) “But the angel said to him: ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah; **your prayer has been heard**. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.’”

Luke 1:18-19 (NIV) “Zechariah asked the angel, ‘How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.’ ¹⁹ The angel said to him, ‘I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.’”

Faith Practice:

Keep praying with faith that God will answer.

Psalms 4:1 (NIV) “Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer”

Faith Crisis:

When it doesn't seem to make sense.

Matthew 1:18 (ESV) “When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they had come together she was found to be with Child from the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 1:19 (ESV) “And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.”

Faith Practice:

Seek God for clarification and consult supporting Christ followers.

Matthew 1:20-21 (NIV) “But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.’”

Faith Crisis:

When you don't have all the details.

Matthew 2:13 (NIV) “When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. ‘Get up,’ he said, ‘take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him’”

Faith Practice:

Surrender the details to God.

Matthew 2:14-15 (NIV) “So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘Out of Egypt I called my son.’”