

Prayer and the Holy Spirit

Luke 1:15-25

Luke 1:5: There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

Luke 1:6: And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

Luke 1:7: But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

- Divine Judgement (not the case according to v. 6)
- Human Reproach (v. 25)

How hard do you think this was on them and their marriage?

Do you think Zacharias and Elizabeth prayed for a child?

This must have been a tremendous struggle for them and their marriage!

- Maybe God is not **good**
- Maybe God doesn't **love** me
- Maybe God doesn't **care**
- Maybe God doesn't **answer** prayer

Luke 1:13: But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son and you shall call his name John." (Yahweh has been gracious)

Luke 1:14: And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

Many - they had **no** idea just **how gracious** God was planning on being to them! (Recap from last week)

Luke's gospel has an **emphasis** on prayer. First mention of prayer in Luke -

1. Answered Prayer 2. Holy Spirit and Prayer

Luke 1:15: For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

Luke 1:16: And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.

Luke 1:17: He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Luke 1:18: Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man and my wife is well advanced in years."

Luke 1:19: And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings."

Luke 1:20: But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.

Message: Unbelief makes us **mute** when it comes to the promises of God.

Luke 1:21: And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple.

Luke 1:22: But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless.

Numbers 6:24-26

Luke 1:23: So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house.

MATURITY

Disappointment didn't keep Zacharias from serving!

Disappointment didn't keep Zacharias from praying!

Luke 1:24-25: Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

Luke 1:15: For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

1. What does the Bible teach about wine and strong drink?

2. What does the Bible teach about when life begins?

Verse 24: Life begins at conception / in the womb.

3. What does the Bible teach about the Holy Spirit?

Prayer and the moving/supply of the Holy Spirit are connected.

We learn more in verses 16-17:

Luke 1:16: And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.

This is what it looks like when the Holy Spirit is moving: people are turned to God! Pray for revival this summer.

Luke 1:17: He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah.

Powerful revival

1 Kings 18:21: How long will you falter between two opinions?

(Amplified: Limp NIV: Waver NASV: Hesitate)

Luke 1:17: He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children.

- Has my heart been turned to God?
- Dad, has your heart been turned toward your children?
 - Do you tell your kids you love them and that you're proud of them?

- Pray for them?
- Saved?
- Baptized?
- Reading their Bible?
- Believing friends?
- Believing spouse?
- Speak God's words to your children (Deuteronomy 6).
- Humble yourself before them.
- Spend time with your kids.

Luke 1:17: He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Dads, deal with disobedience this week.

Matthew 11:11 - Kingdom of God