



Christian Faith Fellowship

- We are not a perfect church

-We are not a perfect people

**-We are here because we know we need
God's help and He has provided this help
through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

**CFF exists to Know Christ and to make Him
Known!**

Accountability Questions

- **Did you spend 5 minutes a day at least 5 days last week reading the Bible?**
- **Did you share a God story with a non-believer this week?**
- **Did you have spend time alone with God this week?**
- **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?**

Luke 1 5 When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron. 6 Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations. 7 They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old. 8 One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week. 9 As was the custom of the

priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. 10 While the incense was being burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying. 11 While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. 12 Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. 13 But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. (Gods time NOT ours)

- This couple - “righteous in God’s eyes” - lived the life of a believer! (v6)
- Even though they lived the life God commanded for His followers in every way - they still had grief and pain as they had no children.
- This was an obvious issue they had taken to the Lord throughout their lives and now it would seem their hope for an answer to their prayer was over for they were both old and past the time of having kids
- What HOPE have you lost because you see it as it’s time is passed or ‘never going to happen’?

- Don't translate being a Christ follower into getting everything you want from God – even if it seems like the normal right thing!
- Are you trusting Him with or without an answer to your prayer?

13 But the angel said, “Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. 14 You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord.

- What life long prayer have you lost hope on?
- What prayer, if answered, would freak you out?
- In this exchange we see Zechariah had been praying for a child - even though they were passed their time of having kids! Asking God for the impossible after the years of possible had passed.
- Zechariah fulfilling his priestly duties is taken with fear when God sends a message (v12)
- It's funny how often “fear & surprise” are the first reactions of God's people when He shows up!

(Mary) **Luke 1** 30 But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.

(Shepherds) **Luke 2** 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

(Disciples) **Matthew 14** 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” (He was **ALREADY** walking on water!)

- We can have fear be the first reaction to anything new - BUT we can't let fear take control of the situation and dwell in us - we must release the fear to move forward!
- If an angel of God appeared here in our service I don't think we would be all casual about it – BUT we can't let the supernatural experience be the focus
- Our focus needs to be on the message

- OUR hope is found in God's message NOT the supernatural experience of the revelation of that Truth!
- We can lose the main point by focusing on the 'experience' rather than the fact.
- Consider these experiences: A vision of an angel – a personal message from God – Zechariah is unable to speak as a result of the encounter – the people know he had seen a vision, Mary & the Disciples had Angel messengers, walking on water, etc.

Action Steps

- What prayer do you simply say in repetition that you have lost hope for?
- What prayer have you stopped praying because you have lost hope?
- What if God NEVER answers THAT prayer?
- Your encounters with God have resulted in what?
- Are you looking for another experience or living in the hope of the message of Truth?