

YOUR HEART'S DESIRE

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Luke 1:11-17

What are you waiting for? What is your heart's desire?

What have you been longing for as long as you can remember? Is it a husband or wife? Is it a child? Are you looking for financial stability? Are you longing for peace in your home? What is it that you keep worrying the Lord about? Israel longed for a king, the Messiah. Their lives were caught up in a vicious cycle. They were in difficult and desperate times. They wanted to be in a world of peace and justice. When the Gospel of Luke opens, it had been 400 years since God had spoken to Israel. Sometimes we are like Israel wondering if God cares about what we are going through. However, God does not allow our crisis to become His crisis. He is always on time. Some of us have come to the conclusion that He can't handle it all. **Luke 12:6** If God knows every sparrow and has numbered the hairs on our heads, then surely He can handle it all. God hears our prayers but He answers in His own time. How many times has God let you know that He knows the plans He has for you? **Jeremiah 29:11** You can *chill* because God has it all under control. You don't have to worry about it anymore.

Luke 1:6 In the text, Zechariah and Elizabeth were considered blameless. When you are blameless, you are not perfect but everything in your life lines up with the Word of God and you can trust Him to handle your accusers. **Philippians 2:12-15, 1 Peter 2:12** Zechariah and Elizabeth were a godly couple but they were childless. In their society, a barren woman was looked down upon as a disgrace. Our impossibilities are God's possibilities. When we think there is no hope that's when God does His greatest work.

Zechariah was praying inside the temple and the assembled worshipers were praying outside when the angel of the Lord appeared to him. **Matthew 18:20** When there is prayer and agreement in prayer there is a great movement of God. Agreement in prayer gets God's attention. In the text, the angel of the Lord told Zechariah that his prayers had been answered and he would have a son. Zechariah had been praying for the redemption of Israel and peace in the land but his heart's desire was for a son. Zechariah, a faithful priest, kept on praying even when he didn't feel like it. We have to learn how to prevail in prayer. We have to pray even when we don't feel like it. We have to pray even when we don't have words to say. You have to push through with prayer. God is still good. He is still great and greatly to be praised. You have to push beyond your own situation. What do you do when you don't have words? Ask for help. Give whatever is worrying you to God. That's what Zechariah was doing. All of his prayers were answered. The redemption of Israel was tied up in him having a son. Watch God workout your situation while you are interceding for someone else. **Psalms 37:4**

Has God ever told you He was going to do something and you asked, “how would you know?” We can trust God for some things but not for others. We can trust Him to save us but not to keep us. You trusted Him to get married to that person but you can’t trust Him to help you stay with that person. Don’t pray half-hearted prayers. Either you trust that He is God or you don’t. **Mark 11:22, James 1:5** To doubt means to waver between two opinions. To doubt means to take it to the altar and then take it back before you leave the altar. Zechariah asked for a sign so God gave him one. He was told he would not be able to speak until his son was born. Why does God have to convince us before we believe Him? We always want to take into account our realities. What is reality in the face of God? You cannot even comprehend the power and might of God. If God wants to do it another way, then let Him do it. Trust Him anyway. **Isaiah 40:31** What does God say? He says your prayers have been heard. Whatever you turned over to Him is already done. God will do what He says.

Peace.

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