

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

WILL GOD ANSWER MY PRAYERS?

Luke 1:13 “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.”

Imagine experiencing the appearance of an angel while going about your normal routine duties as Priest, offering the prescribed sacrifice. Aged Zechariah, a faithful priest, a man of God, a devoutly spiritual individual, seeing the angel “was filled with fear.”

The angel was on a God sent mission to announce to Zechariah that his wife Elizabeth and he were going to become parents of a son. When they were very old, well beyond the years of child bearing, the angel said God was going to bless them with the son for whom they had prayed for years and years. “Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” (Luke 1:18)

How can you be sure God’s hears your prayers? And, of course, how can you be sure God answers your prayers? As you ask these two questions, first remember Jesus encourages you to pray as found in Matthew 7:7-8, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.” And you have a further promise from Jesus, “I will do whatever you ask in My name.” (John 14:13)

Zechariah and Elizabeth, when it appeared their prayer would not be answered, were shocked and amazed when God blessed them with their son John. But God had made them wait until there was no doubt that John was His answer to their prayer rather than something they had done.

Actually, God gives one of three answers to your prayers. The first is, yes! The second is no! The third is not yet or wait. No matter what His answer, with His answer He gives you His “good and perfect gift.” (James 1:17) For He alone is “able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine. . .”(Ephesians 3:20) That is why we pray as Jesus taught us, “Thy will be done.” (Matthew 6:9)

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father give me faith to pray and faith, to trust you will respond and to accept your answer. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Be still, my soul, before the Lord, For God is always near.
Before your mind is moved to pray, God listens and will hear.

You need not multiply your words Nor pray with practiced art.
Beyond all speech, God understands The hunger of your heart.

Wait, then, in quiet confidence, Your anxious thoughts at rest.
God knows your needs before you ask And works for what is best.

Be still, my soul, before the Lord; On God in patience wait.
God's love, unseen, surrounds your life; God's help will not be late.
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