

## A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

### YOU CAN BE SURE?

Luke 1:18 “Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”

Do you have or have you had questions you would like to have God answer for you? Zechariah had one in today’s devotional text, “How can I be sure of this? I’m an old man and my wife is well along in years.”

Zechariah was thinking about the angel’s message from God that Elizabeth and he would be having a baby son. Zechariah knew Elizabeth’s age and his own. He didn’t need to consult a medical textbook or go to Google to know that wives and their husbands reach an age where a natural conception and birth of a child just does not happen. So, almost spontaneously he asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this?”

How can you be sure of the promises God has given you? There are so many found in the Bible. Some of them seem as impossible as the one the angel delivered to Zechariah. How can you be sure?

Jesus was asked this question by His disciples. His answer was, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26) The evidence in the Holy Scriptures to back up Jesus’ answer is significant: 1) Matthew 14:14 “When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them and healed their sick.” 2) Matthew 9:23-25 “When Jesus entered the synagogue leader’s house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, He said, “Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep.” But they laughed at Him. After the crowd had been put outside, He went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up.” 3) Luke 23:43 (Jesus’ promise to the thief on the cross – the greatest miracle Jesus performed) “Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in paradise.”

You can be sure God will answer your prayers! “. . .with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26) and Jesus has promised, “. . . I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, give me faith to believe and trust God's promises including His promise to answer my prayers. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Entrust your days and burdens To God's most loving hand;  
He cares for you while ruling The sky, the sea, the land.  
For He who guides the tempests Along their thund'r'ous ways  
Will find for you a pathway And guide you all your days.

Rely on God your Savior And find your life secure.  
Make His work your foundation That your work may endure.  
No anxious thought, no worry, No self-tormenting care  
Can win your Father's favor; His heart is moved by prayer.

Take heart, have hope, my spirit, And do not be dismayed;  
God helps in ev'ry trial And make you unafraid.  
Await His time with patience Through darkest hours of night  
Until the sun you hoped for Delights your eager sight.

Leave all to His direction; His wisdom rules for you  
In ways to rouse your wonder At all His love can do.  
Soon He, His promise keeping, With wonder-working pow'rs  
Will banish from your spirit What gave you troubled hours.

O blessed heir of heaven, You'll hear the song resound  
Of endless jubilation When you with life are crowned.  
In your right hand your maker Will place the victor's palm,  
And you will thank Him gladly With heaven's joyful psalm.

Our hands and feet, Lord, strengthen; With joy our spirits bless  
Until we see the ending Of all our life's distress.

And so throughout our lifetime Keep us within Your care  
And at our end then bring us To heav'n to praise You there.

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