

From Doubt to a Turnabout

Luke 1:67-71

What God has spoken, He will accomplish, no matter how impossible

Faith in God's word is believing it as if it has already taken place

What?

Keeping your faith devout will rout out doubt

Zechariah's turnabout from doubt—

1:67-68—When we bless God, we say that He is a blessing to us **because of His presence with us and His salvation**

Luke wants us to bless God as Zechariah did

But this is a turnabout for Zechariah

1:13-17—Gabriel announced several impossibilities to him

He and Elizabeth would bear a son in spite of Elizabeth's barrenness and in spite of their old age

Their son would be the "Elijah" predicted in the OT hundreds of years before

Malachi 4:5-6, ESV—"I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers"

Their son would be the forerunner of the Messiah

But doubt overcame Zechariah, and he asked for a sign

1:19-20—God had spoken, and would accomplish it

So **Zechariah was to believe as if it had already taken place**

When he doubted, Gabriel **gave him the sign he wanted, an impossible thing**, but it was personal and disciplinary

The Big Question—"Why did the Lord discipline Zechariah and not Abraham?"

Abraham asked, "How will I know that I will possess the land?"

Abraham asked in faith, wanting to strengthen that faith

Zechariah asked in doubt; his sign was to correct his doubt

God was saying, "Now you will be silent before Me and **listen to My words, not your own words of unbelief**"

1:63-64—God forced speechlessness on him so that **he would have to take faith action by writing John's name**

Then he blessed God, as he should have done earlier

So What?

1:69-71—Z. learned that God will accomplish what He has spoken, no matter how impossible

He learned that faith means believing what God speaks as if it has already happened

1:74-75—**Don't give in to doubt**, especially about sin

You have the blessing of **God's presence as your helper and the source of your salvation**

Turn away from the words of unbelief you may be telling yourself, or that you are hearing from others

Believe that **you have been saved from sin and the devil, as if God has already accomplished it**

The final say—Peter

1 Peter 1:3, ESV—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

Now What?

Turn away from words of unbelief

In silence before God, believe that He has saved us from sin and Satan, as if He has accomplished it