

## **WHEN WE FIND IT HARD TO TRUST GOD**

*(Luke 1:18-25)*

God's Word calls us to place our hope in the Lord for He is worthy of our trust. Psalm 62:8 exhorts us: *"Trust in the Lord at all times; O people; pour out your hearts to Him for God is our refuge."* But when our faith's journey lands on the path of difficult trials and sorrows, we tend to doubt and question the trustworthiness of God and His Word. Such was the struggle of Zechariah who in spite of being devoted and upright before God still wrestled with doubt and distrust. As we reflect on the life and experience of Zechariah and Elizabeth, let's consider these two fundamental lessons we need to learn when we find it hard to trust in God.

### **1. Acknowledge the \_\_\_\_\_.**

When Zechariah received the good news from God through the angel Gabriel, his response should have been that of strong faith and great rejoicing. But instead of trusting God, Zechariah's response was a question of doubt and distrust: *"How can I know this? For I am an old man and my wife is well advanced in years"* (Luke 1:18). Doubt and distrust are our natural reaction when confronted with life's adversities and problems. But we must realize that our doubts and unbelief stem from the sinfulness of our human heart. (Heb. 11:6; 3:12). When we doubt and disbelieve God and His Word, we're essentially saying that God is a liar and that God and His Word cannot be trusted. God chastens His people for their doubt and unbelief. As an act of discipline, Zechariah was made mute because he did not believe Gabriel's words (Luke 1:20-22).

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### **2. Believe the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word.**

When Zechariah responded in doubt and unbelief, the angel of the Lord reminded him of the veracity of his message. He said, *"I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God and I was sent to speak to you and bring you this good news"* (Luke 1:19). When the Lord commands us to believe and trust in Him, He anchored our faith in a solid foundation: His revealed Word. The cure and remedy for doubt and unbelief is to affirm our allegiance and confidence in the Word of God because God's sufficient Word is our final authority (2 Tim.3:16-17) and God's Word is certain and sure (Isa.55:11 Psalm 19:9; 2 Pet.1:19; Psalm 119:42-43). There are no broken promises and unfulfilled prophecies of God. God never wastes a single word in Scripture. Everything that God has said in His Word will be fulfilled according to His appointed time and His intended purpose (Luke 1:24-25; 57-80).

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