

Waiting on a Miracle

Here we are just over a week until Christmas. A season of hope. A time where we reflect on the miraculous birth of Jesus. And we should find a reminder here that our God is a miracle working God.

Now many would give credit to the season for a miracle...."it's a Christmas miracle!". It's one of my pet peeves. It's not this season that works miracles, miracles have a source and it's not Christmas, it's Jesus Himself!

Lots of people celebrate Christmas without Jesus. It's all about the gifts and family....no mention of Christ.

Miracle

- an effect or extraordinary event in the physical world that surpasses all known human or natural powers and is ascribed to a supernatural cause.
- such an effect or event manifesting or considered as a work of God.

When it comes to miracles, you can't have one without God....and Jesus is God!

Anyone here in need of an extraordinary event that's beyond human ability?

Anyone here in need of a work of God?

You need a miracle!

Luke 1:5-7 (NKJV)

There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. 7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

Righteous, blameless

Barren, well advanced in years

Luke 1:8 (NKJV)

So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division,

Trials while serving

Luke 1:9 (NKJV)

according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

Lot

Temple

Luke 1:10-12 (NKJV)

And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. 11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

Angel

Luke 1:13-17 (NKJV)

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. 15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Praying for their trial

Miracle spoken

Luke 1:18 (NKJV)

And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years."

Doubt

Luke 1:19-20 (NKJV)

And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. 20 But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time."

Consequences

Luke 1:21-23 (NKJV)

And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. 22 But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless. 23 So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house.

People know when you have been with God

Luke 1:24-25 (NKJV)

Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, 25 “Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

God had compassion, took away her shame

Luke 1:41-45 (NKJV)

And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.”

Elizabeth filled with the Holy Spirit

Luke 1:57-58 (NKJV)

Now Elizabeth’s full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son. 58 When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her.

Miracle fulfilled, months after it was spoken

Celebrate miracles with others

Luke 1:59-63 (NKJV)

So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. 60 His mother answered and said, “No; he shall be called John.”

61 But they said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name.” 62 So they made signs to his father—what he would have him called.

63 And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, “His name is John.” So they all marveled.

John means - The Lord is gracious

They asked for a son to carry on the family name and priesthood and God gave them the forerunner of the Messiah. A child that grow in the Spirit and pave the way for Jesus. A man who Jesus would call the greatest among men (Matthew 11:11)

Luke 1:64-66 (NKJV)

Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God.
65 Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. 66 And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, "What kind of child will this be?" And the hand of the Lord was with him.

Zacharias was obedient

Luke 1:67 (NKJV)

Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

Blessing follows obedience

Luke 1:68-79 (NKJV)

"Blessed is the Lord God of Israel,
For He has visited and redeemed His people,
69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us
In the house of His servant David,
70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets,
Who have been since the world began,
71 That we should be saved from our enemies
And from the hand of all who hate us,
72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers
And to remember His holy covenant,
73 The oath which He swore to our father Abraham:
74 To grant us that we,
Being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
Might serve Him without fear,
75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.
76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest;
For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,
77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people
By the remission of their sins,
78 Through the tender mercy of our God,
With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;
79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,

To guide our feet into the way of peace.”

He was to lead the way to Jesus.

Luke 1:80 (NKJV)

So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

This is the result of:

- Serving God even in trial
- Praying about what you are facing
- A miracle spoken
- God having compassion
- A miracle fulfilled

Skip the doubting.....who needs the consequences

Go straight to the obedience....serve, pray, believe....

So, I'll ask again....

Anyone here in need of an extraordinary event that's beyond human ability?

Anyone here in need of a work of God?

You need a miracle!

1. God inclines His ear to the righteous - Have you placed your faith in Jesus?
2. Have you asked for your miracle?
3. Keep serving, keep asking, believe it will be done.