

Receiving from God

Luke 1:5-23

This story demonstrates **four attitudes** that open believers' lives to receive from God and be involved in His plan for their lives.

WE OPEN OUR LIVES TO RECEIVE FROM GOD WITH . . .

- **A HUMBLE OBEDIENCE.**

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶And they were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. ⁷And they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years.

Luke 1:5-7 (New American Standard Bible)

So Jesus called a child, made him stand in front of them, ³ and said, "I assure you that unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven. ⁴The greatest in the Kingdom of heaven is the one who humbles himself and becomes like this child. Matthew 18:2-4 (Good News Bible)

Humility in my relationship with God is when I refuse to stand in judgment on His Word, but instead respond with obedience, recognizing God as the ultimate authority in my life.

" . . . When God sends us something good, we welcome it. How can we complain when he sends us trouble?" Job 2:10 (GNB)

"Persistence in doing good" from Romans 2:7 (New International Version)

- **A PRAYERFUL ATTITUDE.**

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. ¹¹Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³But 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 give him the name John. Luke 1:8-13 (NIV)

The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. 1 Timothy 5:5 (NIV)

- **A TRUSTING ATTITUDE.**

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the 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 . . . ¹⁶"And he will turn back many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷"And it is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah . . . so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

¹⁸And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this for certain? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." ¹⁹And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I have been sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news. ²⁰"And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which shall be fulfilled in their proper time." ²¹And the people were waiting for Zacharias, and were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²²But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them; and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he kept making signs to them, and remained mute. ²³ And it came about, when the days of his priestly service were ended, that he went back home.

Luke 1:13-23 (NASB)

Doubt is about failing to trust God when we hear His voice.

. . . Abraham is the father of all who believe . . . ¹⁸When God promised Abraham that he would become the father of many nations, Abraham believed him. God had also said, "Your descendants will be as numerous as the stars," even though such a promise seemed utterly impossible! ¹⁹And Abraham's faith did not weaken, even though he knew that he was too old to be a father at the age of one hundred and that Sarah, his wife, had never been able to have children Romans 4:16-19 (New Living Translation)

- **A GRATEFUL ATTITUDE.**

When his time of service was completed, he returned home. ²⁴After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵"The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people." Luke 1:23-25 (NIV)

Every good gift and every perfect present comes from heaven; it comes down from God, the Creator of the heavenly lights, who does not change or cause darkness by turning. James 1:17 (GNB)