

**Walking With The Characters of Christmas**  
**“Zechariah: A Man Who Struggled Believing God”**  
(Part 1)  
Nov. 28th & 29th, 2009  
Pastor Dale Satrum



**I. Following God Does Not Mean He Removes All \_\_\_\_\_**

*Luke 1:6-7 “Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God’s eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord’s commandments and regulations. They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old.” (NLT)*

A. Disappointments are part of living in a fallen world

*1 Peter 4:12 “Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.” (NLT)*

B. Disappointments can also be God’s \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Our Circumstances Can Make it Difficult To \_\_\_\_\_**

*Luke 1:13-15,18 “Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord...Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure this will happen? I’m an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years.” (NLT)*

A. Sometimes God’s promises seem too good to be true

B. Sometimes our \_\_\_\_\_ seem bigger than God

**III. There Are \_\_\_\_\_ For Doubting God’s Word**

*Luke 1:19-20 “Then the angel said, “I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! But now, since you didn’t believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time.” (NLT)*

A. We follow alternate directions in life

*Ps. 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.” (NLT)*

B. We miss out on God's promises becoming \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Obedience \_\_\_\_\_ To Experience All God Has Promised**

*Luke 1:59-64 "When the baby was eight days old, they all came for the circumcision ceremony. They wanted to name him Zechariah, after his father. But Elizabeth said, "No! His name is John!" "What?" they exclaimed. "There is no one in all your family by that name." So they used gestures to ask the baby's father what he wanted to name him. He motioned for a writing tablet, and to everyone's surprise he wrote, "His name is John." Instantly Zechariah could speak again, and he began praising God." (NLT)*

A. Obedience releases our lives into a fuller experience with God

B. Obedience releases God's \_\_\_\_\_-into our circumstances

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