



BIBLE STUDY

Active Faith II

Faith Is Movement, Not Just A Statement

James 1:8, 2:22 NKJV

1. FAITH IS OBEDIENCE TO GOD

2. OBEDIENCE CREATES EXPECTANCY

First of all, God expects to be believed. -Numbers 23:19 NLT; Luke 6:46; John 14:15.

Our belief in God is demonstrated through our obedience. That is what faith is: obeying God because we believe in Him. When you obey God, you can expect Him to speak. And when He speaks, He makes promises. And when **HE MAKES A PROMISE, YOU CAN EXPECT HIM TO KEEP IT.**

A person who does not obey God or walk by faith, Scripture says that person should not expect anything from God. James 1:6–8, NLT.

Look at Luke 1:18–20. This text gives us a powerful picture of the relationship between obedience, God's Word, and expectancy.

- ❖ Zechariah and Elizabeth had been walking faithfully before God. Luke 1:6–7.
- ❖ Then God sent an angel with a promise while he was serving. Luke 1:8–13. But Zechariah struggled to believe it because he focused on their circumstances. Verse 18.
- ❖ The issue was not God's ability to fulfill the promise. The issue was Zechariah's ability to expect God to do what He said. Because He was focused on his circumstance.

I. Obedience Positions You to Hear from God — Verses 8–13

Zechariah was already serving God faithfully when the angel appeared. His obedience did not earn the promise, but it positioned him in the place where God was working in his life, and that's where God spoke.



II. God's Word Give Us Something to Expect — Verse 18

Once God spoke, Zechariah had a reason to expect something. God's promise gave him something beyond his circumstances to anticipate

III. Circumstances Can Challenge Expectancy If We Allow Them — Verse 18

Zechariah looked at his age and Elizabeth's age and concluded that the promise seemed impossible. Unbelief looks at what is. **Faith looks at what God has said.** At that point, he did not expect God to keep His promise because he was looking at what is.

IV. God Deals with Unbelief — Verse 19

Because Zechariah was a believer who did not believe God, there were consequences for his unbelief.

V. Faith Expects God to Perform His Word — Verse 20

Notice the certainty: **"Will be fulfilled."** God's promise did not become void because Zechariah struggled to believe it. There are some things God is going to do whether you believe it or not.

Your Affirmation: My Obedience creates expectancy because I consistently walk by faith; I expect God to do what He says. Therefore, my Hope is the Lord- I walk by Faith.

Zechariah's problem was not that God had failed to speak. His problem was that what God said was bigger than what he could see because he allowed his circumstances to block his view.

Faith Makes Circumstances Minor And The Word Of God Major.