

The 2nd Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 5, 2021

“The Questions of Advent ~ Zechariah: How Can I Be Sure?”

“Now there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing to the right of the incense altar. Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. But the angel said, ‘Don’t be afraid, 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...’ How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” (Luke 1:11-18)

“I cry out to God; yes, I shout. Oh, that God would listen to me! When I was in deep trouble, I searched for the Lord. All night long I prayed, with hands lifted toward heaven, but my soul was not comforted... Has the Lord rejected me forever? Will he never again be kind to me? Is his unfailing love gone forever? Have his promises permanently failed? Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he slammed the door on his compassion?” (Psalm 77)

3 POSITIVE EFFECTS OF DOUBT ON OUR LIVES

- Doubt can:
- Doubt can:
- Doubt can:

TRANSFORMING OUR DOUBT INTO FAITH

Step #1. _____.

“I recall all You have done, O Lord. I remember Your wonderful deeds of long ago. They are constantly in my thoughts. I cannot stop thinking about them.” (Psalm 77:11)

“I meditate on your wonderful works. I ponder them because they are true.” (Psalm 77:12)

“I will praise You forever for what you have done. In your name I will hope, for your name is good. I will praise you in the presence of your saints.” (Psalm 52:9)

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us so that through endurance and encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.” (Romans 15:4)

Step #2. _____.

“O God your ways are holy. Is there any God as mighty as you? You are the God of miracles and wonders. You demonstrate your awesome power among the nations.” (Psalm 77:13)

“‘To whom will you compare Me? Or who is My equal?’ says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens. Who created all these? He who brings out the starry hosts one by one and calls them each by name. Because of His great power and mighty strength not one of them is missing.” (Isa 40:25)

“The heavens tell of the glory of God. The skies display His marvelous craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak it. Night after night they make Him known. They speak without a sound or a word. Their voice is silent in the skies. Yet their message has gone out to all the earth and their words to all the world.” (Psalm 19:1)

“Nothing is impossible for God.” (Luke 1:37)

Step #3. _____.

“God’s ways are holy. They are righteous.” (Psalm 77:13)

“Taste and see that the Lord is good. O the joys of those who trust in Him.” (Psalm 34:8)

“merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” (Psalm 103:8)

“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” (Lam 3:22)

“God can’t break his word. And because his word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable. We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. It’s an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God.” (Hebrews 6:18)

“You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who haven’t seen, yet still believe.” (John 20:29)

How can I be sure? ~ How will you answer this question?