

Text: Luke 1:56-80

Subject: "Filled with the Holy Spirit"

INTRODUCTION

1. Long months went by
2. Elizabeth gave birth to a baby boy
3. Circumcision and Naming
 - a) Both events took place on the 8th day
 - b) Circumcision was the seal of the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 17)
4. Customary names
 - a) The name of the father
 - b) Or the name of someone in the family
5. Elizabeth's decision
 - a) His name was to be called "John"
 - b) This was the name given by the angel Gabriel Luke 1:13
 - c) Elizabeth was determined to obey the word of the angel
6. Strong objections were raised
 - a) No one in the family had been called "John"
Thus, the suggestion of this name was rejected
 - b) The point of a name
 - i) For the family
 - ii) In honour of the father
 - iii) In honour of an illustrious person in the family
 - iv) For posterity
 - c) Relatives and friends turned to Zacharias for the final answer

RESPONSE OF ZACHARIAS

1. He was in full agreement with Elizabeth
2. The baby was to be named "John"
 - a) Hebrew name "Jochanan"
 - b) Meaning: God is gracious
3. Reasons for the choice of this name
 - a) Remembering what the angel Gabriel had said Luke 1:13-17
 - i) He would be a great servant of God
 - ii) He would be filled with the Holy Spirit
 - iii) He would be the forerunner of the Messiah
 - b) In obedience to the angel of the Lord
 - i) He was to be called "John" Luke 1:13
 - ii) Zacharias had spent 9 months in silence in chastisement
 - c) The name of the child
 - i) It would not be focused on family
 - ii) Nor on the father
 - iii) He would be God's servant
 - iv) He would be totally dedicated to the Lord from the day of his circumcision

THE FAITH OF ZACHARIAS

1. Lessons learned
 - a) Doubts would not occupy his mind
 - b) Unbelief would not fill his heart
 - c) He would not remain in the state of unbelief

2. Faith in God

- a) This had grown
- b) This had deepened
- c) Understanding had increased
 - i) He would have checked the Scriptures
 - ii) He would have sought wisdom
 - iii) He would have understood more fully

3. The filling of the Spirit of God

- a) As a sign of approval
- b) A special work of the Spirit would begin
- c) This would come about because:
 - i) He had repented from his unbelief
 - ii) He had deepened his understanding
 - iii) He had grown further
 - iv) He was ready to obey fully
 - v) He would bear testimony that God had indeed been gracious

OUR CHALLENGE

1. Learning from mistakes

- a) Mistakes are inevitable
- b) But we must learn from them
- c) Lessons learned must not be forgotten
- d) They can stand us in good stead

2. How we may learn

- a) Recalling

b) Retracing

c) Remembering

d) Repenting

e) Renewing of faith

3. The blessing of the Lord

a) Understanding deepened

b) Faith strengthened

c) Filling of the Spirit