

### *A Matter of Petition*

*We must wait for God...in the wind and wet, in the thunder and lightning, in the cold and the dark. Wait and he will come. All things come to those who wait.*

*(F.W. Faber)*

Guard yourself from the propensity towards discouragement when God does not move in accordance with your expectations. Just because He hasn't given you something, or fulfilled the desire of your heart today, doesn't mean that the Lord is not going to do it tomorrow.

Zacharias and Elizabeth prayed and wanted the Lord to bless them with a child; they longed for an answer to this prayer more than anything else in the world. They made it a matter of petition and sought the Lord for years, but they remained childless. Finally, they gave up on their dream.

God didn't answer their prayers but Zacharias and Elizabeth did not allow what God did not do for them, to become a hindrance to that which He was going to do (Luke 1:5-10). They yielded themselves to the Lord, walking in His commandments and ordinances (Luke 1:6). They refused to become bitter. They served in the ministry and gave their lives for the cause of others (Luke 1:8). They were not idle. They made the Temple of God a priority and Zacharias served as a Priest (Luke 1:8). They were generous with themselves—not self centered. And they prayed often, sincerely worshipping the Lord.

Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish (John Quincy Adams). Zacharias and Elizabeth transformed adversity into opportunity. They gave, made sacrifices, served others and worshipped. They chose to deal with their disappointment by exemplifying a positive faith in God. They knew intuitively what Eleanor Roosevelt believed, "When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die." Just when it appeared as though they would never realize their desire, the Lord moved and supernaturally gave them a child. A child who played a part in changing the world—John the Baptist.

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