

GOD IS IN CONTROL

A report that I read the other day stated that 22 million turkeys will be eaten on Christmas Day. There will be 26 million pecan pies baked and consumed. It also said that 2/3 of the people who are consuming the turkeys and pecan pies do not know where the Christmas story really starts.

The prophets of the Lord had said that one would come to prepare the way for the Messiah. We don't talk much about that story, even though it had to come to pass before the birth of baby Jesus. The reason we do not talk much about the story of Zachariah is because it cries of "Lord, have you forgotten me?" Our human nature does not like for us to think of someone being forgotten on Christmas. The truth is, there are millions of Christians during this Christmas season that is still crying "Lord have you forgotten me?" They feel forgotten when they wanted something so bad and it did not happen. They felt that they need a job to feed their families because they are hungry, but no jobs appear. They feel forgotten when they ask for a child and there is no child. This is where you find Zachariah and Elizabeth.

Zachariah was a Jewish priest and according to the Jewish commandments and regulations, he had to marry someone who was Jewish also. Zachariah married Elizabeth, a daughter from a long line of Jewish priest. The Bible says they were righteous in God's eyes, and we know that God always has 20/20 vision. They were obedient to God. They had wanted and asked God for a child for many years, and now they have grown old. How would you have felt?

If you had been faithful to God in everything you did but your prayers always came back empty. I am sure they felt that way. Felt forgotten. However, even when they felt forgotten, they kept on working. They did not put their lives on hold. Incense was burned twice a day in the Temple and when the people saw the smoke, they prayed. One the day Zachariah was to be in the sanctuary to burn the incense, the angel of the Lord appeared. In Luke 1:11 we read "Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him "Do not be afraid" your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son. In these verses we see that God answers prayer in His own way and in His own time.

Notice the Bible did not say Zachariah felt troubled.

Many times when God shows up in our lives, we feel troubled. John 1:14 says "Don't be troubled. You trust God, now trust in me."

To fear God is to respect God. You cannot enter into the presence of God with respect. Fear knows we have to wait on God but with respect we must know He is coming.

This Christmas know that God does answer your prayer and that your answer is definitely on the way.

Debbie and I want to wish everyone here at Ryanwood a very Merry Christmas and may God bless each and every one of you.

God Bless You,
Brother Jimmy