

## Five Faithless Phrases

Lk 1:18

### ***Introduction:***

- A The priest Zacharias, who was the father of John the Baptist, was generally a faithful man who walked in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless, so when the angel Gabriel appeared to him and said that he and his wife Elizabeth, although quite old, would have a son, his response is somewhat surprising.
  - B. Read TEXT.
  - C. We shouldn't be too hard on Zacharias because this was a rather unique and unexpected situation, but still when he asked for a sign he showed a lack of faith, and his being struck speechless for 40 weeks was not only a sign of the message's truth but also somewhat of a rebuke for his own faithlessness.
  - D. J. W. McGarvey and Philip Y. Pendleton said of Zacharias that his "faithless words cost him forty weeks of silence." Yet, how much more have people who thought of themselves as faithful "Christians" expressed a lack of faith and His ability to provide by uttering one or more of the following...
- I. ***"I Have More Pressing Things To Do Than Attending Every Service Of The Church."***
- A. God commands that His people assemble together to worship Him - Matt. 4:10, Jn. 4:24, Acts 20:7, Heb. 10:25
  - B. We understand that Christians have other responsibilities in life besides the worship of the church
    1. Their jobs, their families, their fellowman, etc.
    2. We also realize that sometimes emergencies may arise which make it impossible for a Christian to meet with the saints
    3. Even the Lord expressed this principle - Lk. 13:15; 14:5
  - C. However, when we choose to do something else when the saints have assembled for worship, then we're obviously not putting the Lord and His kingdom first - Matt. 6:33

- II. ***“I Don’t Give To The Church Until I Know I’ve Taken Care Of All My Needs.”***
- A. Certainly, one of the reasons why God ordained that people should work is to provide for their material needs - 2 Thess. 3:10; 1 Tim. 5:8
  - B. But, God expects His people to be concerned with more than just food, clothing, shelter, silver, and gold
    - 1. He commands that we give back to Him a portion of whatever prosperity with which He’s blessed us - 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7
  - C. Yes, God expects us to provide for our physical needs, but again the principle of putting the Lord first comes into play, so we need to determine **FIRST** what portion of our prosperity we plan to give to God—like the Macedonians - 2 Cor. 8:1-5
- III. ***“If I Don’t Marry This Non-Christian, I Won’t Ever Have A Chance To Get Married.”***
- A. God ordained the marriage relationship for the good of mankind in general - Gen. 2:18, 24; 1 Cor. 7:2; Heb. 13:4
  - B. However, numerous studies show that the more a couple has in common, including and especially their religious beliefs, the more likely they are to have a successful marriage - cf. Amos 3:3
  - C. It’s not a sin for a Christian to marry a non-Christian, but - Prov 21:9, 19
- IV. ***“If I Don’t Compromise Some Of My Christian Principles, I Won’t Have Any Friends.”***
- A. There were some even in Jesus’ day who believed in Him, but they compromised in order to maintain their friendship with those in high places - Jn. 12:42-43
  - B. The fact is that siding with Jesus and standing up for the truth will drive some people away, just as happened with the Lord Himself - Jn. 6:60-66
  - C. This doesn’t mean that we should purposely seek to drive our friends away with a harsh and mean attitude, but there may be times when we have to decide whether we want friendship with the world or friendship with God - Jas. 4:4

## V. *“I Can Take Care Of Myself.”*

- A. Certainly God expects us to obey His will and do what we can
  - 1. We need to remember that in the final analysis, we won't be saved because of our own works or goodness but because of God's grace - Eph. 2:8-9; Tit. 3:3-5
- B. To say, “I can take care of myself,” may sound like the voice of confidence, but it's actually the voice of one with little confidence in God and of one whose heart is filled with pride - 1 Pet. 5:5-6
- C. Instead, we need to recognize our utter dependence upon God to “take care of us” as we strive to journey from earth to heaven - 1 Cor. 10:12-13
- D. George Duffield reminded us: “Stand up, stand up for Jesus! Stand in His strength alone; The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.”

### ***Conclusion:***

- A. Zacharias came to understand that He was wrong to doubt God because His faithless words resulted in his being mute for forty weeks.
- B. However, the five faithless phrases that we've studied could cost us our souls for eternity; therefore, we need to have the faith and trust in God to put Him first in everything that we do.
- C. If you're not a Christian, don't trust in yourself, because in the end you can't, but put your trust in God by obeying the gospel to be saved from sin...