

Heard

“...your prayer has been heard...” Luke 1:13

Isn't it refreshing to know someone who *really* listens? That rare soul who looks intently in your eyes and truly sees you. When the conversation has concluded and you walk away, although not every problem is solved, you are encouraged knowing you have been heard. This person did not interrupt, did not judge or compare their battle wounds to your story. They were not thinking of what they would say in response while you were speaking or wishing you would stop talking so they could go about their day. They heard you.

It is easy to quote the prayer Scriptures to encourage others that God hears their prayers, but today as you are praying and fasting do you know that you have been heard? Let's invite His Word to encourage us today! He *hears* us, He truly is listening.

In Luke Chapter 1, Zacharias had an opportunity that some would have only once in a lifetime. The Priestly duty to burn incense in the Temple. It's no coincidence that the act of burning incense was symbolic of fragrant prayers ascending to the Father, an act of worship.

An Angel showed up and Zacharias was afraid. The Angel said, “...Do not be afraid Zacharias, for your prayer is *heard* and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness...” (Ref. Luke 1:12-14).

Although I have read these passages before and been astonished that the Angel would come to Zacharias with the good news, the fact that Zacharias had prayed for this has only recently dawned on my heart. The miraculous is the miraculous however it may come, but this way Zacharias would know, truly know that God heard him, He really heard him!

“Heard” is translated from “ice-ak-oo'-o,” meaning to listen, to hear. Keep in mind that Zacharias and his Wife Elizabeth were “well advanced” in years and a son being born to them was a miracle indeed. Yet this appointed time intertwined with even a greater miracle. The arrival of Messiah, our Lord Jesus, whom they had waited for (Isaiah 40:3, Luke 1:68-79). They longed for both! How powerful that the burning of the incense and prayer was offered up at the same time the answer to both would come down!

When the Angel told Zacharias his prayer was heard, I wonder if the prayer was that day, or a heart cry that began years ago, or both. Whenever the prayer was offered, God was *listening*. If you have ever been at a school function or other place that is full of Mothers, Fathers and children, somehow when a little one cries out, “Momma!” or “Daddy!” Heads turn to the need of that child. How much more does our Father see and hear us!

David said, “May my prayer be set before You like incense, may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.” (Psalm 141:2) During this time of prayer and fasting, God is *really* listening. Give Him your full attention and you will have His gaze. Pray His will confidently and know that He has *heard* (1 John 5:14, 15). Evening, morning and noon, pray and cry out, and He will hear your voice! (Psalm 55:17). Be assured Son and Daughter, Your Father is *listening*, He *hears* you!

Prayer:

*Father, You hear me! You hear me! You **are** really listening. Help me treasure this time with You to the fullest. Holy Spirit, guide me into truth, that I can pour out honest, vulnerable prayers without holding back. Search me. Know me. May my ears also be open to hear what You want to speak to my heart today.*

Heather Loving