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## **“Die Hard Devotion”**

*“Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.” (Revelation 3: 10-11)*

### **Zechariah’s Service**

**Luke 1:5-12** – (5) “In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. (6) **And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord.** (7) **But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.** (8) Now while **he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty,** (9) according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. (10) And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. (11) And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. (12) And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.”

**Key Point: Durable Devotion Yields Enduring Blessings**

### **Benefits of Die-Hard Devotion**

**#1 –**

#### **#1 – Answered Prayer**

**Luke 1:13-14** – (13) “But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah, **for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son,** and you shall call his name John. (14) And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,”

#### **#2 – Future Impact**

**Luke 1:15-17** – (15) “for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. (16) **And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God,** (17) and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

### **#3 – Muzzled Mouth**

**Luke 1:18-20, 22** – (18) “And Zechariah said to the angel, ‘How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years’ (19) And the angel answered him, ‘I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. (20) And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.’ (22) And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute.”

**Luke 1:62-64** – (62) “And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. (63) And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, ‘His name is John.’ And they all wondered. (64) And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God.”

### **#4 – Clear Perspective**

**Luke 1:67-79** – (67) “And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, (68) ‘Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people (69) and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, (70) as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, (71) that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; (72) to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, (73) the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us (74) that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, (75) in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. (76) And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, (77) to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, (78) because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high (79) to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.’”