



Advent



Most of us know how Isaiah felt, even if we aren't audacious enough to speak it. There are times when **we wish God would come down** here with something that looks like real power to shake things up and set things right. People of faith are often tempted to grasp for economic, political, or military power in the hope that by force they can make things right (or at least make things right for their lives, their culture, and their nation), only to be disappointed when the reality they experience falls short of their expectations.

— *James Harnish*



Where in YOUR life does God seem to be absent?

While Zacharias was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. Zacharias was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Zacharias! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. And he will turn **many** Israelites to the Lord their God.

Luke 1:11-16



Where in YOUR life does God seem to be absent?

"Have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and **try to love the questions themselves** as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language... Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answers."

- *Rainer Maria Rilke*

Self-Reflection Questions “to live with”:

Can I let go off the certainty **that I know what is best** and that there is only one/my way of resolving “what is unresolved in my heart”?

Can I trust **God to show up and work on God’s terms** and not mine? Am I willing to let go off my timetable for an answer?

Can I ask God **for hope to be reborn in my heart**, despite my suffering and the apparent unfairness of my circumstances?