



God is at Work Even When We Don't Know How

Zechariah 13:1-9

Have you ever solved a problem but didn't know *how* you did it? What examples of this can you think of from your own life?

Have you ever approached the Bible like this? You know it holds the answer... you believe it can solve what you're going through... but you don't know *how*. We are people who crave the *how*. Maybe God's goal isn't to show us *how* He works—but to lead us into the *hope* that He is. Here's what we'll see today:

Hope is knowing God is at work even when you don't know how!

Isn't that the hope Moses had standing at the Red Sea? The hope Joshua held as he marched around Jericho? The hope Peter clung to when he stepped out of the boat? Our hope isn't knowing ***how*** God is working but knowing ***that*** He is.

And like Moses, Joshua, and Peter, this truth—that we can trust God's work even when we can't trace it, is what we see in Zechariah 13.

In Zechariah 13, God doesn't reveal how He was working to fulfill their hopes but that He was working in their lives. The ways God was at work then is like the work of God in the lives of believers in Christ.

God works in us to remove our sins (Vs. 1).

- Notice God's work is not only to forgive them *for* sin but to cleanse them *from* it. This is also the work of Christ in by His Spirit:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

- For both the people of Zechariah's day and for those in Christ today, there is the hope not only to be forgiven *for* sin, but to be cleansed *from* sin!
- The Gospel of Jesus Christ breaks both the penalty *and* the power of sin in our lives! This is summarized in 1 John 1:7:
But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
- *How* God does this varies, that He desires this in you does not!

God works in us to renew our minds (Vs. 2-6).

- In a nutshell, these verses show a reversal of the people's acceptance of idols and ungodly influences.
- In other words, their minds were renewed!
- Do not be conformed to this world but continuously be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you may be able to determine

what God's will is—what is proper, pleasing, and perfect. Romans 12:2, ISV

- This can only take place by filling our minds with all that is godly!
- This won't happen overnight → God's best work is done slowly!

God works in us to refine our faith (Vs. 7-9).

- In Zechariah's day, these verses refer to the persecution of their leaders and national turmoil and instability.
- In Jesus' day, Jesus quoted verse 7 to refer to His own passion and scattering of His disciples (Matthew 26:31).
- For those in Christ today, this points to the refining quality of the trials of faith we face (1 Peter 1:6-7).
- God's game plan for our trials is to make us *like* Christ and to prepare us *for* Christ!

Hope is knowing God is at work even when you don't know how!

*If you're in a place where you don't understand
the 'how,' let this truth steady your soul in hope:
God is working in you!*

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