



Chapter 1

Reflections to Journal and Share

- Can you relate to Zechariah's state of hearing but not really listening? Of being so preoccupied with something that you miss much of what's being said?
- God's time frame and Zechariah's time frame of possibilities are certainly not the same! What's new? Can you relate to that from your personal experience? Can we totally trust God and rest in the fact that His timing is perfect while our notions of what's appropriate are not?
- Have you ever felt that you have waited too long, or were waiting in vain? That time, history, and maybe even God, had passed you by? Did those experiences allow you to imagine what might have been going through Zechariah's mind when he heard this sudden, surprising announcement?
- Has intentional silence been a part of your life? Do you set aside time to attentively listen to God's "still small voice?"
- Someone once observed that the word "illness" is totally contained within the word "stillness." What insights might that suggest? Have you ever experienced how God can take a time of "illness" in your life and redeem it into a time of "stillness" with Him? How about a period of prolonged unemployment? What was God teaching you during those times? What did you learn about listening?
- Have you ever experienced a time of God's "imposed silence?" Was it an opportunity to refocus and be still before Him? What did God reveal to you during that time? How do you need to grow in learning to listen to Him?