

# Luke 1:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

## Analysis

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Zacharias's muteness serves as both judgment for unbelief and a sign confirming the angel's words. The Greek 'siopa' (silent) indicates complete inability to speak—a physical manifestation of spiritual doubt. Yet even this discipline is gracious, giving Zacharias nine months to reflect on God's power and faithfulness. The prophecy would be fulfilled 'in their season,' emphasizing God's sovereign timing. Zacharias's sign differs from his request—instead of evidence to produce belief, he receives discipline to strengthen it. This teaches that God's word always accomplishes its purpose, even when we doubt.

## Historical Context

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The nine-month silence prevented Zacharias from publicly doubting God's promise while giving visible evidence to the community that something supernatural had occurred. His inability to speak forced reliance on God's word alone rather than human explanation.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God use discipline to strengthen rather than destroy faith?
2. What is the relationship between doubt and spiritual discipline in the Christian life?
3. How does God's word accomplish its purposes despite human unbelief?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἰδοὺ,	ἔση	σιωπῶν	καὶ	μὴ	δυνάμενος	λαλῆσαι
<b>And</b>	<b>behold</b>	<b>thou</b>	<b>shalt be dumb</b>	<b>And</b>	<b>not</b>	<b>able</b>	<b>to speak</b>
G2532	G2400	G2071	G4623	G2532	G3361	G1410	G2980
ἄχρι	ᾧ	ἡμέρας	γένηται	ταῦτα	ἀνθ	ᾧ	οὐκ
<b>until</b>	<b>that</b>	<b>the day</b>	<b>shall be performed</b>	<b>these things</b>	<b>because</b>	<b>that</b>	<b>not</b>
G891	G3739	G2250	G1096	G5023	G473	G3739	G3756
ἐπίστευσας	τοῖς	λόγοις	μου	οἵτινες	πληρωθήσονται	εἰς	
<b>thou believest</b>			<b>words</b>	<b>my</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>shall be fulfilled</b>	<b>in</b>
G4100	G3588	G3056	G3450	G3748	G4137	G1519	
τὸν	καιρὸν	αὐτῶν					
G3588	<b>season</b>	<b>their</b>					
	G2540	G846					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 3:26** (Parallel theme): And I will make thy tongue cleave to the roof of thy mouth, that thou shalt be dumb, and shalt not be to them a reprover: for they are a rebellious house.

**Ezekiel 24:27** (Parallel theme): In that day shall thy mouth be opened to him which is escaped, and thou shalt speak, and be no more dumb: and thou shalt be a sign unto them; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

**Revelation 3:19** (Parallel theme): As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

**Hebrews 6:18** (Parallel theme): That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

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