

## Faith for a Lifetime

*Faith that Goes on Record*

Pastor Craig Sweeney | December 18, 2022

**Thread:** Faith shapes our decisions today and tomorrow.

“When it was time for Elizabeth’s baby to be born, she gave birth to a son. And when her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had been very merciful to her, everyone rejoiced with her.” Luke 1:57 – 58 NLT

- Moments in life will present themselves to us.
- Faith’s response:
  - Expecting God to be FOR me.
  - Expecting God to be WITH me.
  - How will I represent God in this moment?
- Elizabeth’s moment:
  - WAS a “faith that goes on record” moment.
  - Her FAITH response brought neighbors and relatives before God.
- People will wonder WHEN do I have OPPORTUNITY?

“When the baby was eight days old, they all came for the circumcision ceremony. They wanted to name him Zechariah, after his father. But Elizabeth said, ‘No! His name is John!’ ‘What?’ they exclaimed. ‘There is no one in all your family by that name.’” Luke 1:59 – 61 NLT

- Expectations are all around us, spoken and unspoken.

“So they used gestures to ask the baby’s father what he wanted to name him. He motioned for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s surprise he wrote, ‘His name John!’” Luke 1: 62 – 63 NLT

- What’s the BIG deal? Isn’t his name a small detail?
  - God was specific. His name IS “John.”
- In this moment, embracing the name “John” WAS a “faith that goes on record” moment.
  - “John” - Jehovah is gracious
  - “Zechariah” - My will (over and above God’s heart for me and for others).
  - Both Elizabeth and Zechariah put their FAITH on the RECORD!

“Instantly Zechariah could speak again, and he began praising God. Awe fell upon the whole neighborhood, and the news of what had happened spread throughout the Judean hills. Everyone who heard about it

reflected on these events and asked, ‘What will this child turn out to be?’ For the hand of the Lord was surely upon him in a special way.”

Luke 1:64 – 66 NLT

- When we fall short, use the time to prepare your next “YES.”
- Faith’s response:
  - It brought people before God.
  - It made them look at Him closer.
  - Zechariah spoke on behalf of God.
  - Recognized His hand was present and moving.
  - Caused people to consider God again in their lives.

“Then his father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave this prophecy...” Luke 1:67 NLT

Luke 1:68 – 80 NLT

- Zechariah’s FAITH set John up to experience God’s blessing and calling throughout his life.

### Challenge:

Are you resisting the details of God’s heart for you?

Are you in a moment where your faith needs to go on record?

Choose to represent God in your moment.

### Prayers for our Children

Hearts that love God and others (John 13:34-35)

Wise choices (Proverbs 1:7/ 2 Timothy 3:16-17/Luke 2:52)

Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

Faith (Ephesians 3:16-17)

Respect for authority (Romans 13:1)

Hard work/responsible (Colossians 3:23-24)

Purity (Proverbs 4:23/ 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Compassion (Colossians 3:12/ Philippians 2:1-5)

Service (Matthew 5:16/ Philippians 2:4/ 1 Samuel 12:24)

Tender heart (Ephesians 4:2 and 31-32)

Impactful for the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:9-13)



**DEVOTIONALS  
& MESSAGE  
RESOURCES**

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