

THE CHRISTMAS FEAST... FILLED WITH JOY

I. I FEEL FORGOTTEN WHEN...

- **RIGHTEOUSNESS GOES UNREGARDED**

⁵In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years." Luke 1:5-7 (ESV)

Things That Destroy Faith:

- ✓ **Unfed**
- ✓ **Unwed**
- ✓ **Unconnected**
- ✓ **Infertile**

- **FAITHFULNESS GOES UNREWARDED**

⁸Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense." Luke 1:8-9 (ESV)

- **TIME GOES ON UNRELENTING**

¹⁸And Zechariah said to the angel, 'How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.'" Luke 1:18 (ESV)

II. I FEEL JOY WHEN...

- **GOD'S PRESENCE IS REVEALED**

¹¹And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him." Luke 1:11-12 (ESV)

⁴¹You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Psalms 16:11 (ESV)

- **GOD'S COMFORT IS EXPERIENCED**

¹²And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid,'" Luke 1:12-13a (ESV)

- **GOD'S PROVISION IS DETAILED**

¹³But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.'" Luke 1:13-17 (ESV)

Five Things That Constitute Greatness:

- A. **Consecration**
- B. **Spirit-filled**
- C. **Redemptive**
- D. **Typical**
- E. **Harmonious**

- **GOD'S GRACE IS EMBRACED**

¹³But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.'" Luke 1:13 (ESV)

John means – "The Lord has been gracious."

¹⁸And Zechariah said to the angel, 'How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.' ¹⁹And the angel answered him, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.'" Luke 1:18-20 (ESV)

- ✓ **Your capacity to be blessed is directly related to your willingness to embrace the message that God has been gracious to you.**

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰but his mother answered, 'No; he shall be called John.' ⁶¹And they said to her, 'None of your relatives is called by this name.' ⁶²And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And they all wondered. ⁶⁴And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God." Luke 1:57-64 (ESV)