

## ***The Challenge of a Finishing Faith*** **Study Questions**

### **Getting Started**

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this week's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.
2. If you were asked by a person unfamiliar with our "cultural" practice of Christmas. How would you describe it to them?
3. How does the cultural emphasis of Christmas rob the holiday of it's traditional (Biblical) meaning? How does this rob Christians of the joy of this season?
4. Read Acts 20:35. How does this verse challenge you as a Christian. What is a practical way to put this verse into practice?
5. Luke 1:6-7 reminds us that Godly people face challenges. How would this challenge have impacts Zachariah and Elizabeth? What does Elizabeth's statement in Luke 1:25 reveal?
6. Why is it importance that you walk blameless in all areas of your life? Think of the Christmas account. What kinds of people is God working through?
7. The angel reminds Zachariah that God has heard their prayer. Pastor shared how this is probably an old prayer request. How does the eternal nature of pray encourage us to pray?
8. Luke 1:14-15 reveal that God was concerned about how John would be raised. While the specifics only applied to John, it God concerned with how we raise our children? Why?
9. Luke 1:15-16. Compare with Malachi 4:5-6. How did John become a blessing to others?

### **Digging Deeper**

10. The challenge for this week it to attempt to do be a blessing to someone each day this next week. Ask the Lord to open your eyes to see the opportunity.

## ***Be A Blessing to Others***

**Series: Best Christmas Ever**

*Sunday December 7, 2014*

*"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "*”  
*Acts 20:35 ESV*

### **I. I Can Be \_\_\_\_\_ to Another Person**

*"In 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." Luke 1:5 ESV*

*"And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years." Luke 1:6-7 ESV*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **before God**
2. **Walking** \_\_\_\_\_ **in all commandments**
3. **No** \_\_\_\_\_ **and** \_\_\_\_\_

*"Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people." Luke 1:25 ESV*

**II. My \_\_\_\_\_ is a Channel of God's Blessing to Others**

*"And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense."*  
*Luke 1:11 ESV*

*"I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."*  
*Luke 7:28 ESV*

**God Does the Extraordinary when I \_\_\_\_\_!**

*"And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But 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 1:12–13 ESV*

*"And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for 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."*  
*Luke 1:14–15 ESV*

*"And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and 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 1:16–17 ESV*

*"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers.."*  
*Malachi 4:5–6b ESV*