

# **ZECHARIAH AND THE CRISIS OF FAITH**

## **LUKE 1:5-25**

# Societal Expectations

Attends Sunday school

Studies hard

Love parents

Serves in Worship team

Quiet time daily

Never exceeds speed limit

Friendly to strangers

Tithe every week

Recycle plastic bags

Shares the gospel



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**Why doesn't God bless my family?**

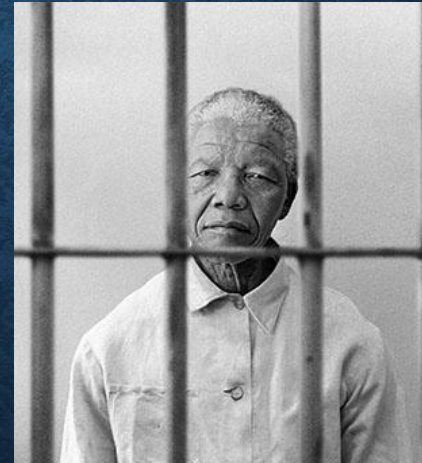


# We have expectations

God is pleased / Righteous  
Successful / Smart / Good person



God is angry / Sinful  
Failure / Less intelligent / Bad person



Life is filled with nuances

# Zechariah the paradox

DISCOVER JESUS – An Angel Appears to Zechariah (Luke 1:1-25) ESV



Faithful priest

Childless

Very old

Shamed by society

Conquered by Romans

Herod as King of Judea

No revelation for 400 years



▶ ▶ 1:52 / 5:22



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mE\\_GrwvoaW0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mE_GrwvoaW0)



# Is something wrong with Zechariah?

Luke 1:5 In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron.

**6 Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly.**

7 But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

<sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard."

**Zechariah life was in the dead center of God's plan**



# The eyes of the Lord

2 Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those **whose hearts are fully committed to him.**



**You are in the dead center of God's plan**



# Sometimes God's plan is too beautiful to fathom

Isaiah 55:8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.  
9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.



# **ZECHARIAH AND THE CRISIS OF FAITH**

## **LUKE 1:5-25**

1. God is in control of our circumstances



# God is active in our daily lives

8 Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, 9 he was **chosen by lot**, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and **burn incense**. 10 And when the time for the burning of incense came, **all the assembled worshipers were praying outside**.

11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

12 When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.



**Incense represented the prayers of the people**



# God's message to Zechariah

1. Do not be afraid
2. Your **prayer has been heard.**
3. Your wife **Elizabeth will bear you a son**
4. You are to **call him John**
5. He will be a **joy and delight to you**, and many will rejoice because of his birth
6. He will be great in the sight of the Lord.
7. He is **never to take wine or other fermented drink**
8. He will be filled **with the Holy Spirit** even before he is born.
9. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.
10. He will **go on before the Lord**
11. In the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to **make ready a people prepared for the Lord.**"



# How can I believe this?

v18 Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”

Zechariah knows the bible.

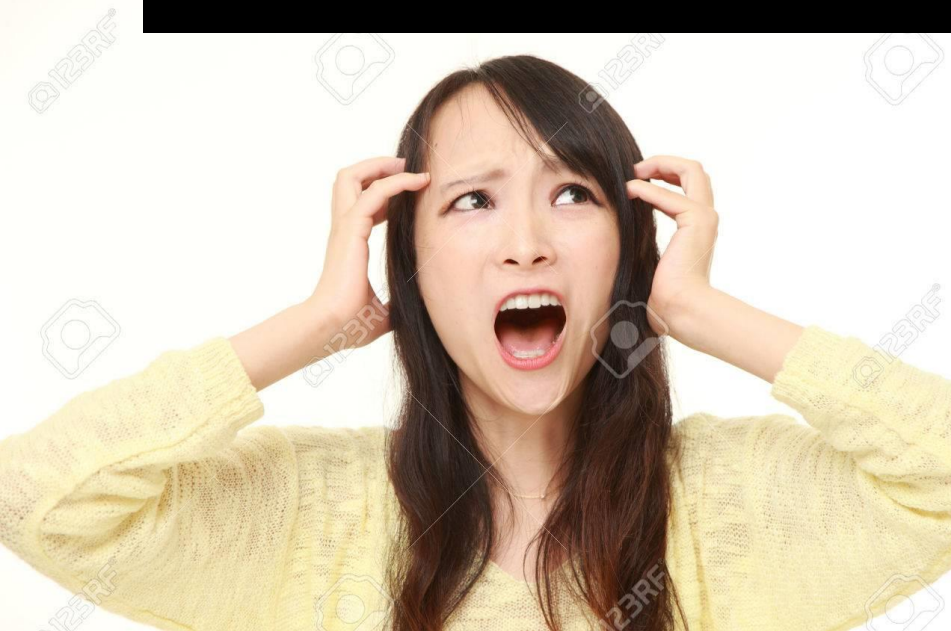
But he believed God had a limit.

He has tried everything but still cannot have a child.

**Zechariah had a Crisis of faith**



We believe we are in our control





# God can override your life

<sup>18</sup> Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? **I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.**”

<sup>19</sup> The angel said to him, “**I am Gabriel.**

**I stand in the presence of God,** and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.

<sup>20</sup> And **now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens,** because you did not believe my words, **which will come true at their appointed time.**”



Proverbs 19:21 Many are the plans in a person's heart,  
but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.



# ZECHARIAH AND THE CRISIS OF FAITH

LUKE 1:5-25

1. God is in control of our circumstances
2. God is the reason for our true achievements
3. Unbelief is the root of all sin but God's purpose will prevail

# Why render Zechariah mute?

v18 Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”

34 “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

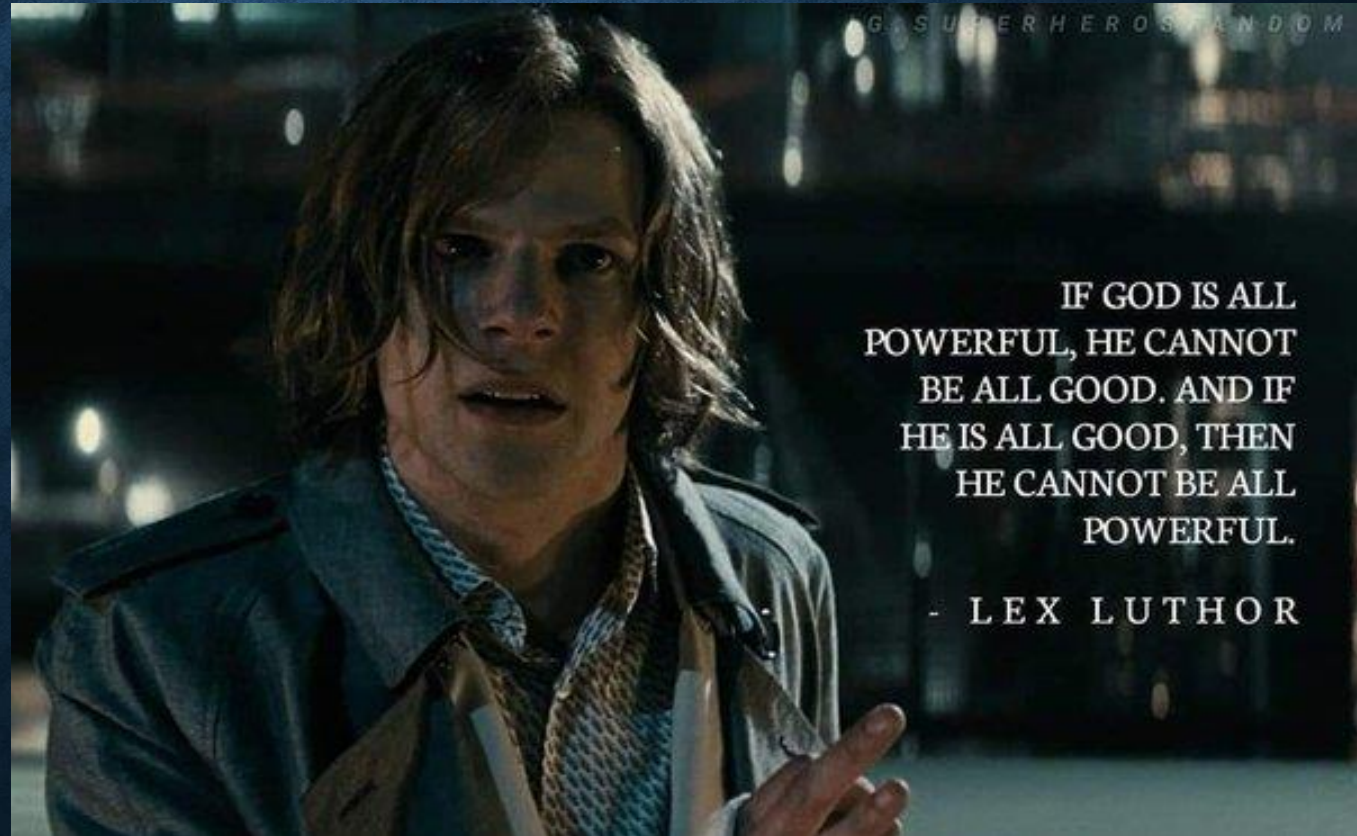
<sup>20</sup> And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, **because you did not believe my words**, which will come true at their appointed time.”

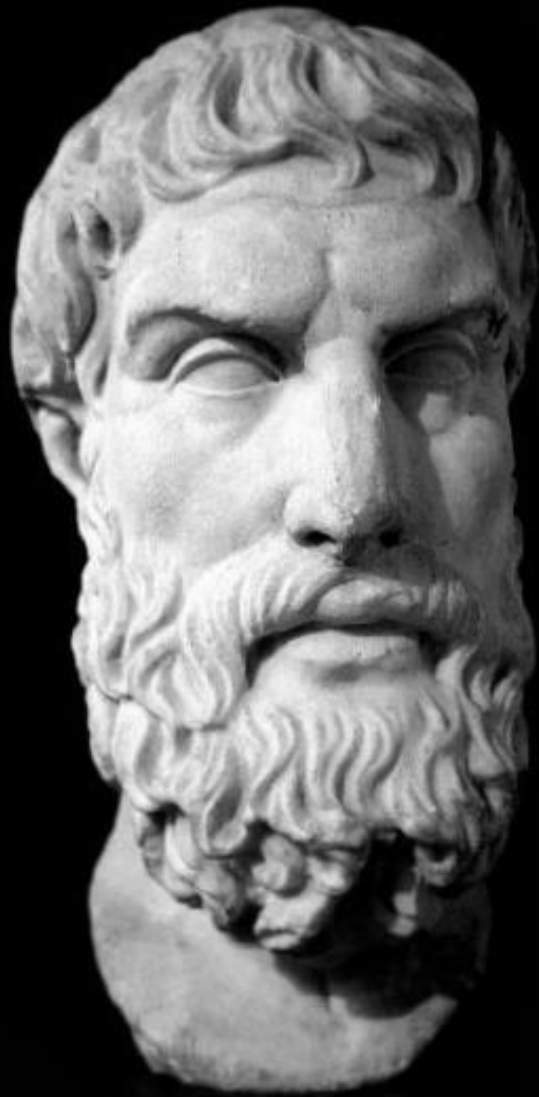
**Blessed is she who has believed** that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”



# Unbelief is the root of all sins

Genesis 3:4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”





Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able?  
Then he is not omnipotent.  
Is he able, but not willing?  
Then he is malevolent.  
Is he both able and willing?  
Then whence cometh evil?  
Is he neither able nor willing?  
Then why call him God?

- Epicurus

**Doubting God and His character**



Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. <sup>2</sup> **This is what the ancients were commended for.**



39 **These were all commended for their faith**, yet none of them received what had been promised, 40 since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

# Zechariah's life was in crisis mode

<sup>20</sup> And now you will be silent and **not able to speak until the day this happens**, because you did not believe my words, **which will come true at their appointed time.**”

<sup>21</sup> Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. <sup>22</sup> When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

**Zechariah was now unfit for service based on  
Leviticus 21:16-23**



# Zechariah had a job to do

<sup>23</sup> When his time of service was completed, he returned home. <sup>24</sup> After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. <sup>25</sup> “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

<sup>62</sup> Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. <sup>63</sup> He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” <sup>64</sup> Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God.



# ZECHARIAH AND THE CRISIS OF FAITH

LUKE 1:5-25

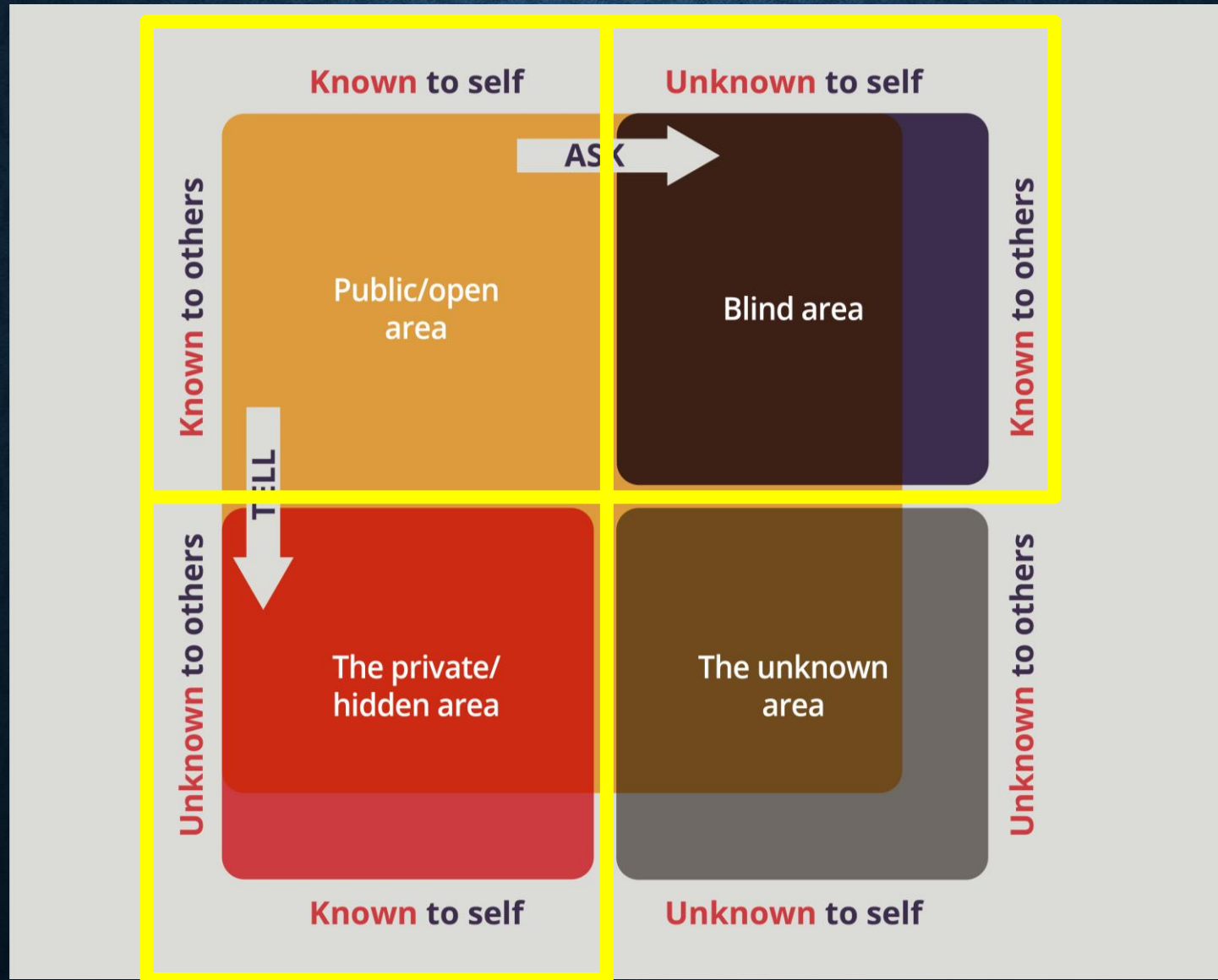
1. God is in control of our circumstances
2. God is the reason for our true achievements
3. Unbelief is the root of all sin but God's plan will prevail
4. God's plan is beyond our imagination



# God's plan is beyond our imagination

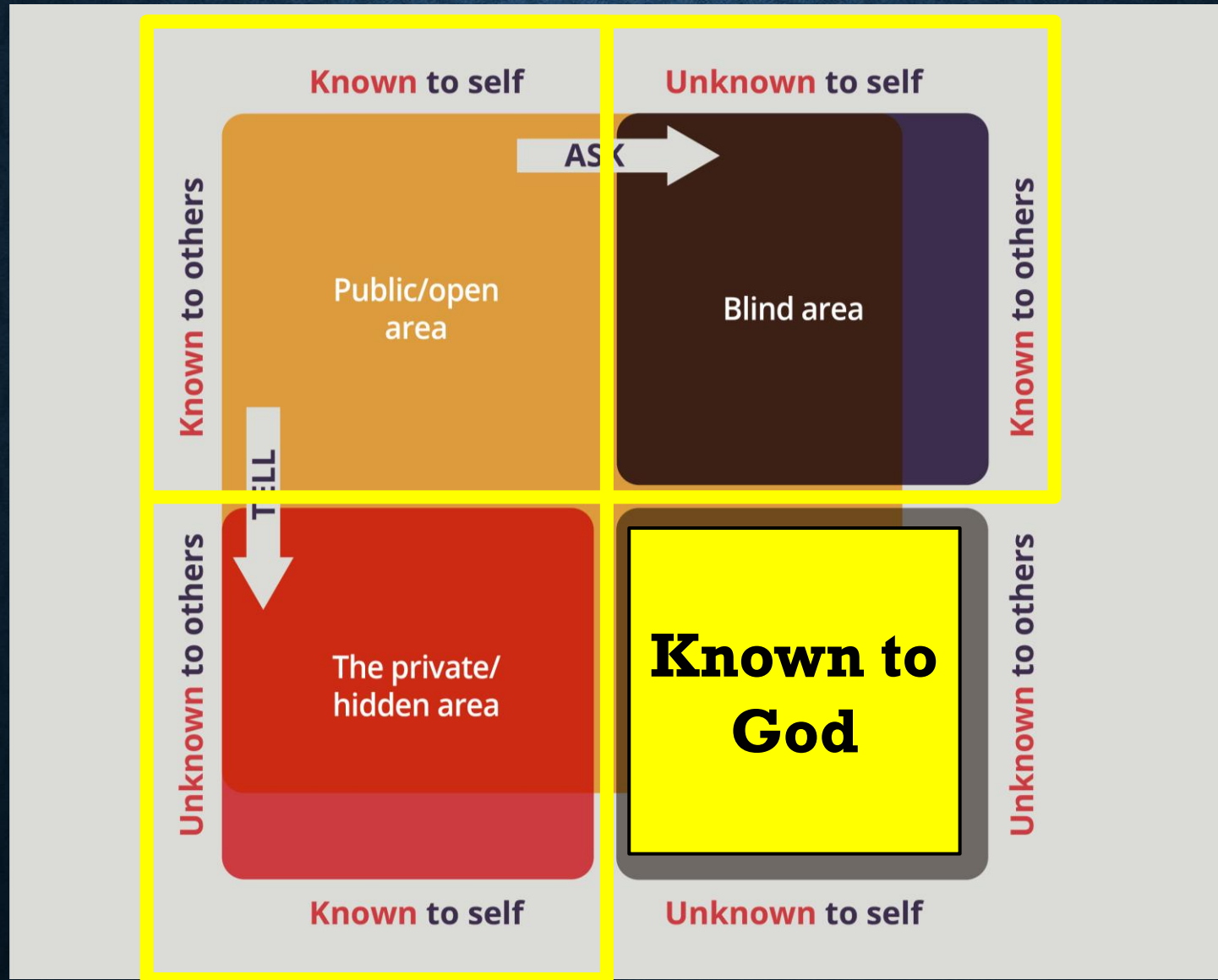


# Johari window





# Johari window



# God's plan is also for Zechariah and Elizabeth

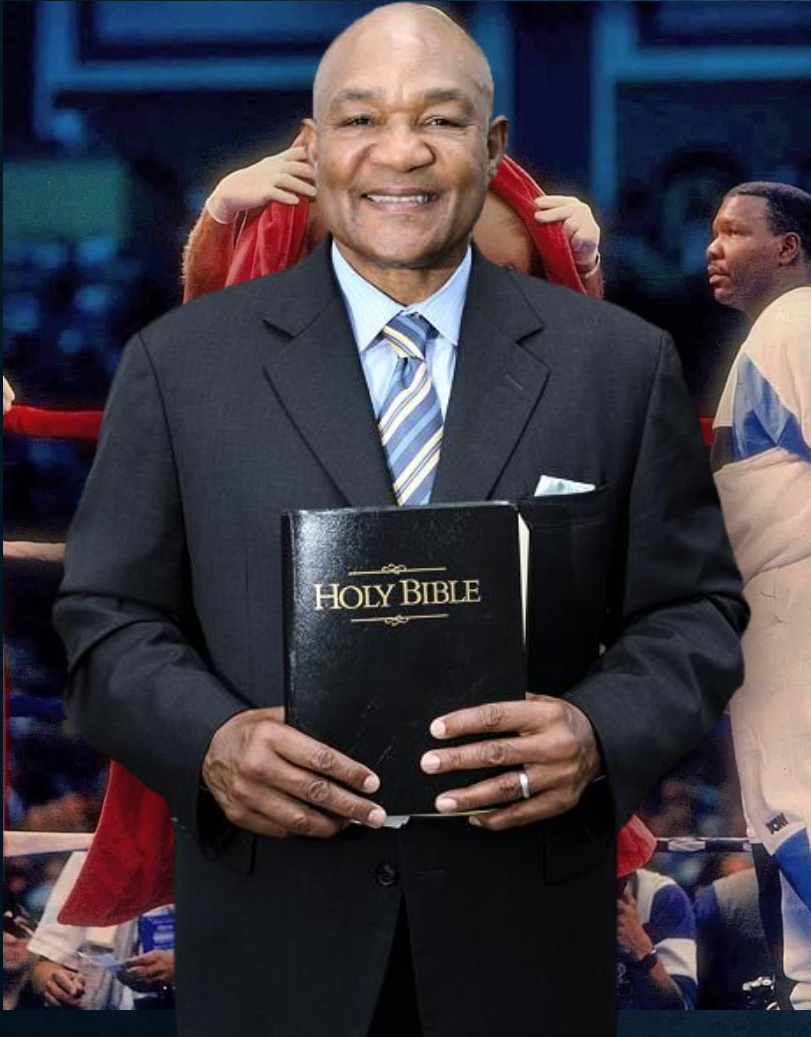
DISCOVER JESUS – The Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-80) ESV



God loves Zechariah and Elizabeth.  
They grew in faith through this journey



# George Foreman – Church minister



# Nor Rayray – What can you do with 1 arm and 3 fingers?



Nor Rayray

Yesterday at 5:50am · 🌐

If there is one thing you could offer unto God, what is that thing?  
Me? My imperfect body. Because I know I am loved by a perfect God.



Sharing to you this song 😊

"I bring an offering of worship to my King."



2.5K Views

<https://steemit.com/life/@rruubbiie/don-t-stop-believing-a-story-of-a-wonderful-man-from-davao>



He takes care of her daughter  
Has a business  
Musical director in church  
Ministering to others



I did not have proper education or a paid tutor for me to know the fundamentals. It was the grace of God that made it possible.”

Learning did not happen overnight. It was hard because I don't have a keyboard of my own back then. So, what I did was, I draw a keyboard in paper just to memorize the chords and discover chord pattern for my little fingers.

I would spend 3hours/day to familiarize the keys. Little did I know, each day I was improving. It changed my life. It gave me the courage to live this life.”

<https://godtv.com/man-little-arms-plays-still/>

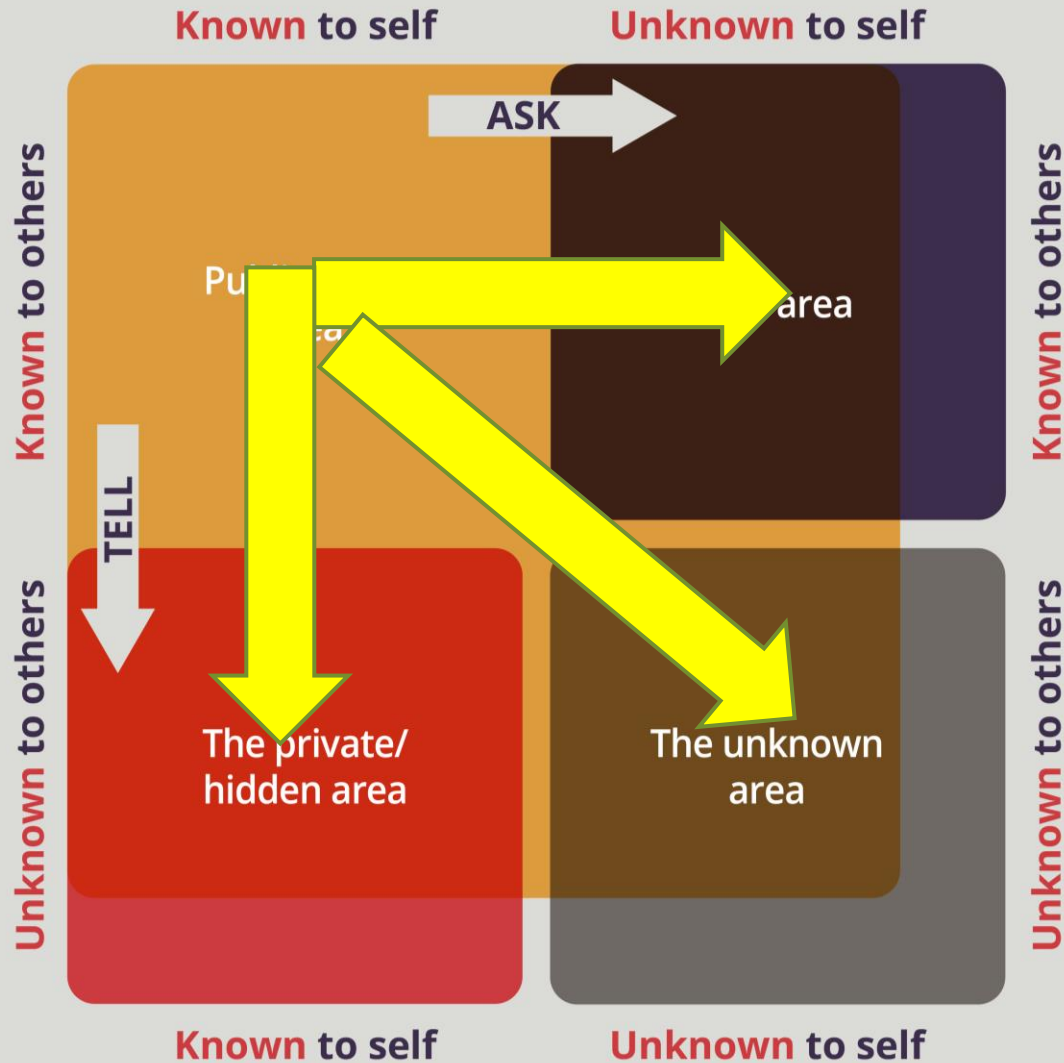


Romans 8:18 | consider that **our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.** <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

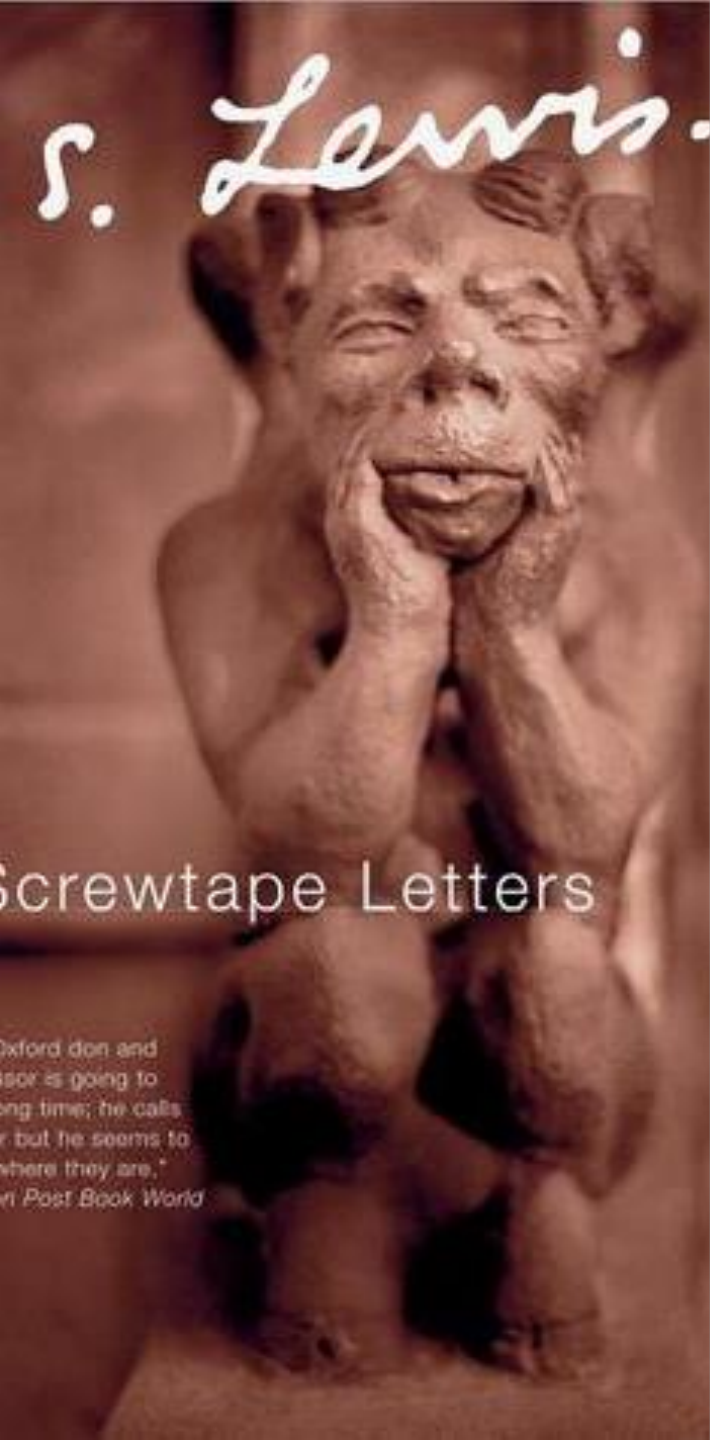
<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who<sup>[i]</sup> have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> **He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?**

# What is God's purpose?

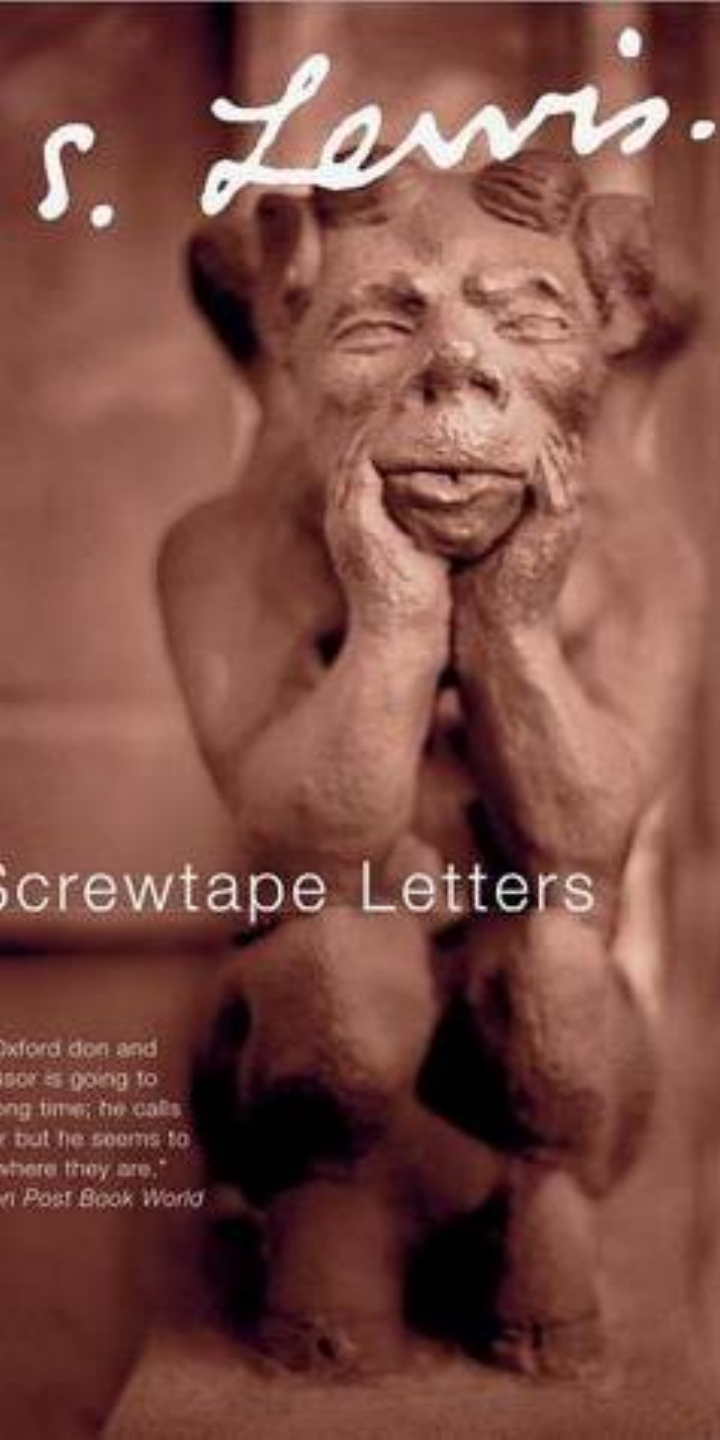






“One must face the fact that all the talk about His love for men, and His service being perfect freedom, is not mere propaganda, but an appalling truth.

He really does want to fill the universe with a lot of loathsome little replicas of Himself—creatures, whose life, on its miniature scale, will be qualitatively like His own, not because He has absorbed them but because their wills freely conform to His.



We want cattle who can finally  
become food; He wants servants  
who can finally become sons.

We want to suck in, He wants to  
give out.

We are empty and would be filled;  
He is full and flows over.

Our war aim is a world in which Our  
Father Below has  
drawn all other beings into himself:  
the Enemy wants a world full of  
beings united to Him but still  
distinct."



**THE SON OF GOD  
BECAME A MAN  
TO ENABLE  
MEN TO BECOME  
SONS OF GOD.**

C.S. LEWIS



**#WisdomInAMinute**



**DEREK GRIER  
MINISTRIES**

# Jesus our great high priest

**Luke 24:50** When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, **he lifted up his hands and blessed them.** <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup> And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.



## O come, all you unfaithful

O come, all you unfaithful  
Come, weak and unstable  
Come, know you are not alone

### Verse 2

O come, barren and waiting  
ones  
Weary of praying, come  
See what your God has done

### Chorus

Christ is born, Christ is born  
Christ is born for you

### Verse 3

O come, bitter and broken  
Come with fears unspoken  
Come, taste of His perfect love

### Verse 4

O come, guilty and hiding ones  
There is no need to run  
See what your God has done

### Bridge

He's the Lamb who was given  
Slain for our pardon  
His promise is peace  
For those who believe

### Verse 5

So come, though you have  
nothing  
Come, He is the offering  
Come, see what your God has  
done

# Benediction

He's the Lamb who was given  
Slain for our pardon  
His promise is peace  
For those who believe  
So come, all you unfaithful,  
Come, weak and unstable  
Come barren and waiting ones  
Weary of praying ones  
Come, see what your God has done  
Christ is born,  
Christ is born for you

“To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be  
honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”

– 1 Timothy 1:17