

PART ONE

○○○

EXPECT THE
UNEXPECTED

Luke 1

SERMON SERIES

SERMON SERIES



Zechariah and Elizabeth

Luke 1:6

Righteous in the sight of God

Luke 1:7

Childless, and they were both very old

Luke 1:11-13

An angel appeared in response to Zechariah's prayer

Luke 1:13

They are to expect an unexpected child at their old age

Luke 1:13-17

Their child, John will prepare the way for the Lord Jesus

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED



Background - A time of apparent hopelessness

Jews

- Conquered by the Assyrians
- Conquered by the Babylonians
- Now under the Roman empire
- Waiting for a promised Messiah to save them
- God seemed to have forgotten them
- There had been 400 years of silence
- No prophet had been sent by God

Zechariah & Elizabeth

- No children
- Already very old
- Cultural shame
- Missed the favor of God?
- Mockery to their names?
- Zechariah means "God remembers"
- Elizabeth means "God is my oath"



Living faithfully
amid apparent hopelessness!

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED



*“Your faithfulness makes
you trustworthy to God.”*

Edwin Louis Cole
*Founder of Christian Men’s Network
and Author*

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

01
● ○ ○

Live in
Faithful Obedience



Luke 1:5-7

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.

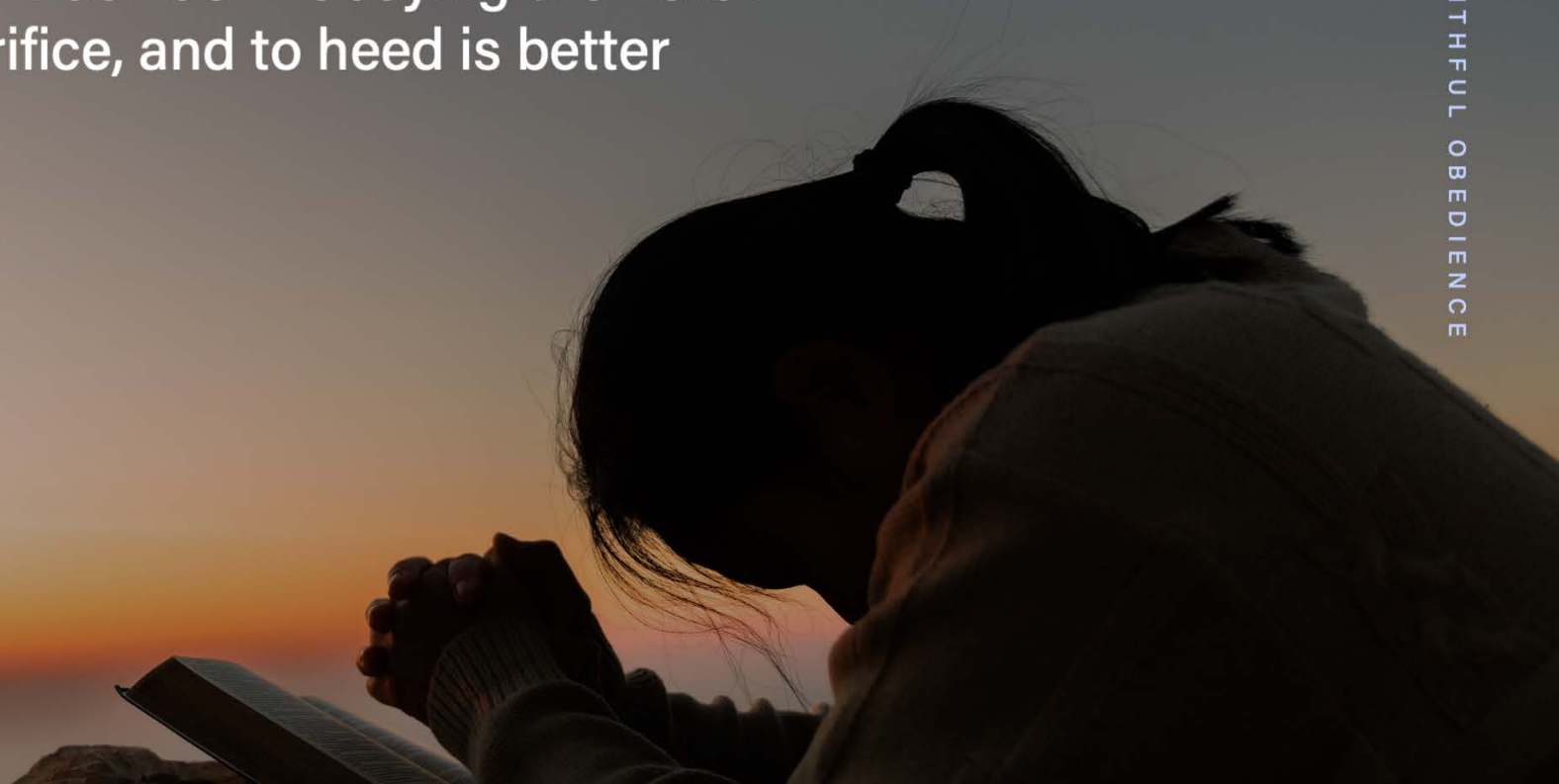
⁶ Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly.

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



1 Samuel 15:22

But Samuel replied: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.



Luke 9:23

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.



02
●●○

Live in Faithful Trust



Luke 1:12-14

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

¹³ But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.

¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth.





LIVE IN FAITHFUL TRUST

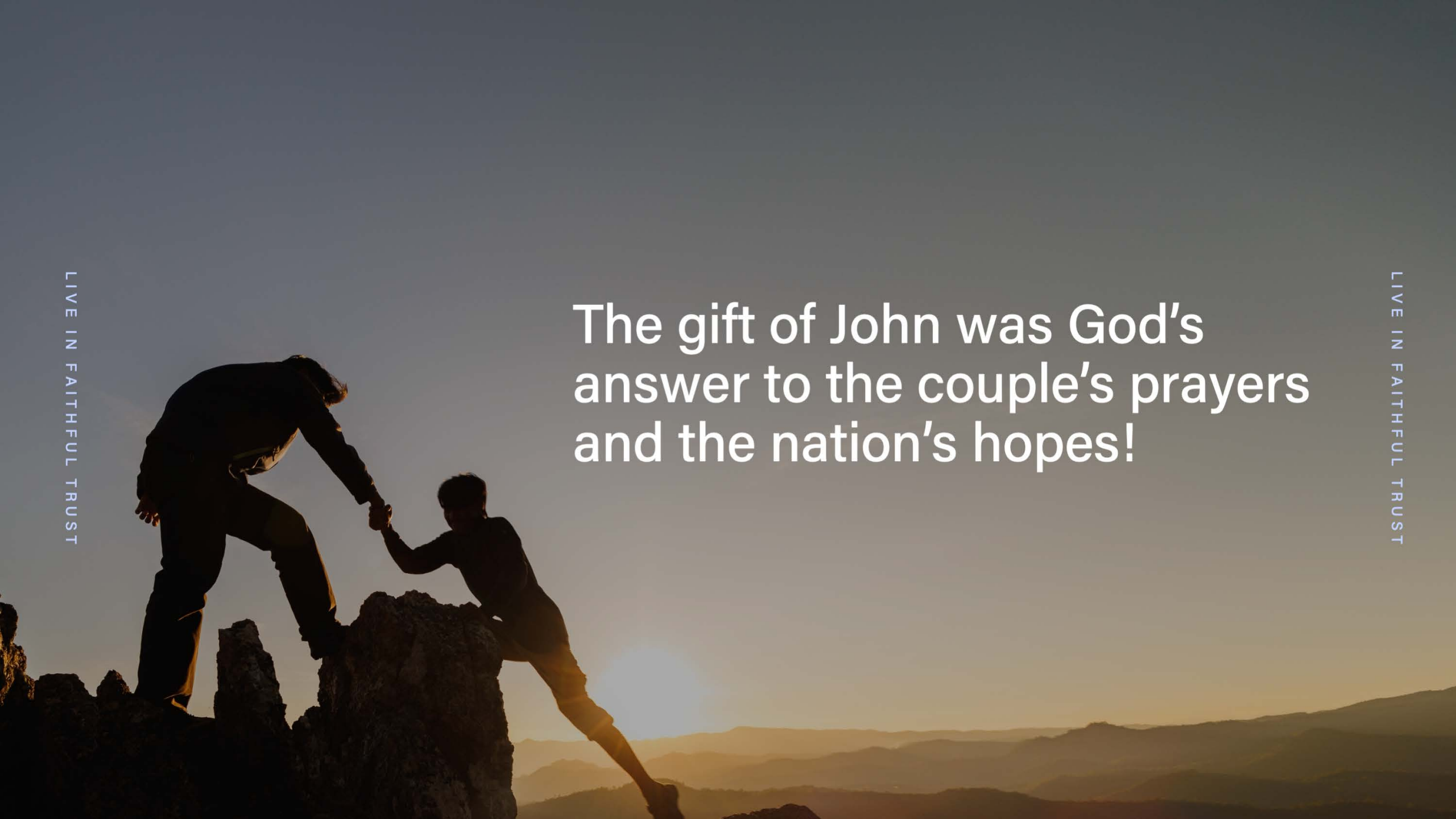
A. Trust in God's Promises

LIVE IN FAITHFUL TRUST

LIVE IN FAITHFUL TRUST

The gift of John was God's
answer to the couple's prayers
and the nation's hopes!

LIVE IN FAITHFUL TRUST



Isaiah 40:5 (700BC)

A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert

Matthew 3:1-3

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea... This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

John 1:23

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

Malachi 3:1 (430BC)

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.

Matthew 11:7-10

⁷ As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? ...

¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

Malachi 4:5-6 (430BC)

“See, I will send the prophet **Elijah** to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. **He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.**”

Matthew 11:13-14

¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. ¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.

Luke 1:17

And he will go on before the Lord, 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.”

B. Trust in God's Power

- Zechariah demonstrates his unbelief in questioning the angel (Luke 1:18)
- He didn't really believe God would answer his prayers
- This was shocking considering
 - He was in the temple ministering before God
 - He was talking to an angel



C. Trust in God's Plans and Purposes

- Luke 1:16-17
- God is actively at work in the affairs of humanity
- God is actively restoring our relationship with Him



- A. Trust in God's Promises**
- B. Trust in God's Power**
- C. Trust in God's Plans and Purpose**



THEOLOGY

Blindsided by God ... But Never Betrayed

PETER CHIN

How setbacks in my life revealed the Lord's true character.



"I had asked God for a healthy church, and he gave us two healthy children instead.

I had asked for success, and he gave us salvation.

I had prayed that I might witness good things in my life, and he showed me miraculous ones instead.

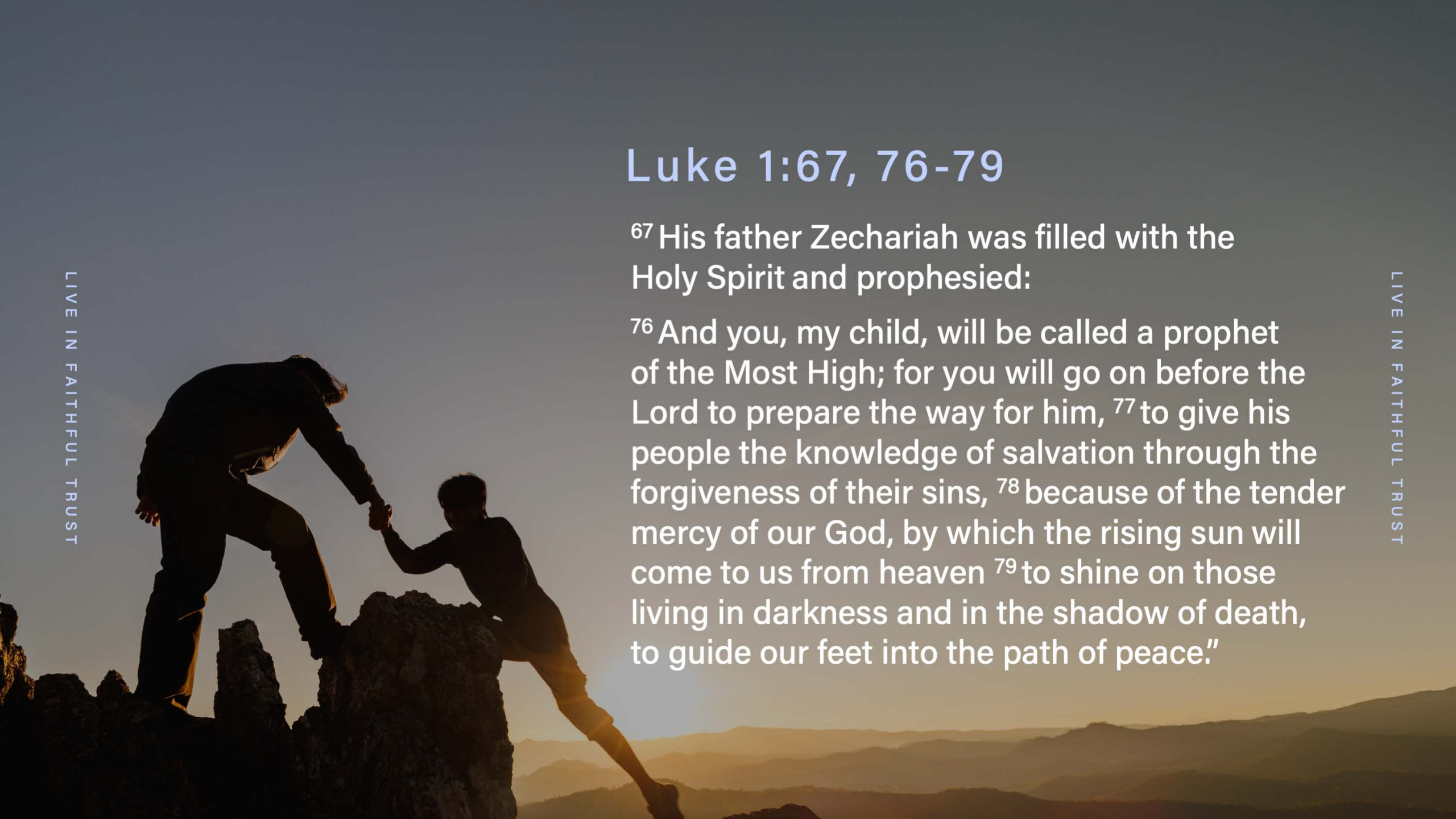
He did not answer a single prayer request in the way that I had asked, but instead gave me things so much deeper and richer."

Pastor Peter Chin

Luke 1:67, 76-79

⁶⁷ His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, ⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven ⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."



03
...

Live in
Faithful Proclamation



- Luke 1:67-78
- Zechariah proclaimed in the spirit of God's redemption and salvation and the forgiveness of the people's sin
- He proclaims God's tender mercy and peace upon the nation as God sent John to prepare the way
- John will be called a prophet of the Most High to lead people to Christ



- Christmas reminds us that hope has dawned in our world
- The Church is filled with the Holy Spirit to proclaim Jesus, our Messiah, the world's hope is here





EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Living faithfully amid hopelessness

1. Live in Faithful Obedience
2. Live in Faithful Trust
3. Live in Faithful Proclamation