



We are living in a uniquely disorienting time. Though there is great change, if God's people cooperate with Him, we will see a moving of His Spirit that will exceed anything we have experienced in this generation. There's a growing hunger for the Lord in the Body of Christ, but at the same time our Judeo-Christian value system is being deconstructed as the world descends into Paganism. This is not a new thing, and it's not due to a political movement or a party change. Paganism is violent, murderous, demonic, and destructive, and it stands in opposition to God's purposes. The ungodly values that come from Paganism are flourishing and widely celebrated, and Scripture warns us that ungodliness results only in destruction. Apart from a biblical worldview, ungodly practices like human sacrifice have been a part of our story from time immemorial. It was the emergence of Christianity that brought an alternative to pagan civilization and a pathway that led toward the sanctity of human life. This presents an important question for the Church: **Will we stand up for those who cannot speak for themselves?** Or will we add momentum, through our silence, to the rise of this paganistic destruction of humanity? **Life is a gift from God, our Creator.**

John 10:10 ***The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.***

Acts 15:29 *You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.*

1. In what ways can Christians stand up for those who cannot speak for themselves?

GOD, OUR CREATOR

Psalm 100:3 *Know that the Lord is God. **It is he who made us, and we are his;** we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

Genesis 2:7 *the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

Psalm 119:73 *Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn Your commands.*

Genesis 1:27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

"IN MY MOTHER'S WOMB"

Psalm 139:13–14 *For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*

Isaiah 44:24 *"This is what the Lord says— Your Redeemer, who formed You in the womb: I am the Lord, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,*

Isaiah 44:2 *This is what the Lord says— he who made You, who formed You in the womb, and who will help You: Do not be afraid, O Jacob, my servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.*

Jeremiah 1:5 *"Before I formed You in the womb I knew You, before You were born I set You apart; I appointed You as a prophet to the nations."*

2. What difference has it made in your life to know that God knew you and set you apart before your birth? How can you use that truth to encourage others?

A PLAN FOR EACH LIFE

Zechariah & Elizabeth

Luke 1:13–17 *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 give him the name John. ¹⁴ **He will be a joy and delight to You, and many will rejoice because of his birth,** ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. ¹⁶ Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."*

Mary

Luke 1:31–33 *You will be with child and give birth to a son, and You are to give him the name Jesus.³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.*

Joseph

Matthew 1:20–21 *But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as Your wife, because **what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.**”²¹ She will give birth to a son, and You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”*

3. What was the happiest, most unexpected gift you have ever received? What responsibilities did that gift carry with it?

THE AUTHOR OF OUR STORY

Hebrews 12:2 *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Judges 13:2–5 *A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was sterile and remained childless.³ The angel of the Lord appeared to her and said, “You are sterile and childless, but You are going to conceive and have a son.⁴ Now see to it that You drink no wine or other fermented drink and that You do not eat anything unclean,⁵ because You will conceive and give birth to a son. No razor may be used on his head, because the boy is to be a Nazirite, set apart to God from birth, and he will begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”*

4. What are some practical ways you can integrate your faith into each day so you can have a positive impact on our culture, your workplace, or the broader community?

GOD IS OMNISCIENT

Acts 9:13–16 *“Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem.¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on Your name.”¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.¹⁶ **I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.**”*

Acts 22:10–11 *“**What shall I do, Lord?**” I asked. “‘Get up,’ the Lord said, ‘and go into Damascus. There You will be told all that You have been assigned to do.’¹¹ My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.*

Confronted with the Truth—What We Can Do!

Acts 2:37 *When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”*

5. How has God’s awareness of every aspect of your life helped you to yield and trust Him more fully?

PRAYER

Father, Heavenly Father, thank You for forgiving me of my sins. By a decision of my will, I forgive everyone of everything. I release them and relinquish them into Your care. I rejoice in my new freedom. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Now, take that prayer and put names in as the Lord brings people to Your mind. When He reminds You of a scene or an event, perhaps something You have forgotten, say, “Father, I forgive them. I cancel every imagined debt. They don’t owe me anything. I set them free.” As a result, God will bring unimagined freedom to You. That simple little trilogy of prayers of repenting, believing, and renouncing—canceling every claim and releasing forgiveness—will bring freedom to You so you can live a completely different kind of life.

Lord, thank You for the freedom we have in Jesus’ name—that, in Your grace and mercy, You have forgiven us and cleansed us. By the Spirit of God, You have set us free from every oppression, every curse, every unclean thing, and every accusation. You have called us to this generation to be a voice for You. Thank You that the dignity of every human life, the sanctity of life, and the dignity of every person will be celebrated once again in our homes, in our schools, in our communities, in our churches, and in this nation. May the scourge of abortion be turned back. May the hearts of the fathers be turned to their children and the children to their fathers. In Jesus’ name, amen!