

# “Promises: Looking Back *and* Forward”

## Sermon Series “Finding Joy” (Week 1)

Sermon

Luke 1:57–80

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- 1) Joy is an **imperative**, a **command** in the New Testament.

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. *1 Thessalonians 5:16–18*

- 2) Zechariah looked back **at God’s former faithfulness**.

<sup>70</sup> ...as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old <sup>71</sup> that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; <sup>72</sup> to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our father Abraham... *Luke 1:70–73*

- 3) Zechariah rejoiced in **God’s presently fulfilled promises**.

<sup>68</sup> “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people...” *Luke 1:68*

- 4) Zechariah didn’t **worry about himself**.

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. *Philippians 4:4*

- 5) Zechariah looked forward **to future hope**.

<sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. *Philippians 3:13–15*