

**"Giving God the Credit for Good: BELIEVE"**

1 Timothy 4:12

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**Example of Believers**

1 Timothy 4:12

12) Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

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**God Has a Plan:  
Based on Prayer**

Luke 1:5-13

- 5) There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.
- 6) And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.
- 7) And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.
- 8) And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

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## God Has a Plan: Based on Prayer

Luke 1:5-13

- 9) According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.
- 10) And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.
- 11) And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.
- 12) And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.
- 13) But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

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## Zecharias Key Quote

Your Prayer is Heard - Luke 1:13

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## Prayer Accomplishes

James 5:6

- 16) Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

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## Prayer Makes Aware

1 Peter 4:7

7) But the end of all things is at hand:  
be ye therefore sober, and watch  
unto prayer.

NASV says "for the purpose of prayer"

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## Prayer Achieves

Acts 12:5

5) Peter therefore was kept in prison:  
but prayer was made without ceasing  
of the church unto God for him.

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## God Has a Plan: Based on Providence

Luke 1:26-31

26) And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel  
was sent from God unto a city of Galilee,  
named Nazareth,

27) To a virgin espoused to a man whose  
name was Joseph, of the house of David;  
and the virgin's name was Mary.

28) And the angel came in unto her, and  
said, Hail, *thou that art* highly favoured,  
the Lord *is* with thee: blessed *art* thou  
among women.

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God Has a Plan:  
Based on Providence

Luke 1:26-31

29) And when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30) And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31) And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

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Mary Key Quotes

Thou Art Highly Favored - Luke 1:28

Blessed Art Thou Among Women - Luke 1:28

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Care

1 Peter 5:7

7) Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

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## Will

John 5:30

30) I can of mine own self do nothing:  
as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is  
just; because I seek not mine own  
will, but the will of the Father which  
hath sent me.

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## Confirmation of God's Plan

If an angel came to me in a dream, or I  
felt God revealed his plan to me in a  
dream; the first thing I must ask is  
how does this align with God's  
Word?

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## Confirmation of God's Plan

1 John 4:1

1) Beloved, believe not every spirit,  
but try the spirits whether they are  
of God: because many false prophets  
are gone out into the world.

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### Zacharias Response - Doubt

Luke 1:18

18) And Zacharias said unto the angel,  
Whereby shall I know this? for I am  
an old man, and my wife well stricken  
in years.

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### Mary First Response - Physical Impossibility

Luke 1:34

34) Then said Mary unto the angel,  
How shall this be, seeing I know not  
a man?

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### Angel's Response

Luke 1:37

37) For with God nothing shall be  
impossible.

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**Mary Second Response -  
Obedience**

Luke 1:38

38) And Mary said, Behold the  
handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me  
according to thy word. And the angel  
departed from her.

*Handmaid Used by Hagar and Ruth too*

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**Better to Obey than Sacrifice**

1 Samuel 15:22 (Spoken to King Saul)

22) And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great  
delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as  
in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold,  
to obey is better than sacrifice, and to  
hearken than the fat of rams.

23) For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,  
and stubbornness is as iniquity and  
idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the  
word of the LORD, he hath also rejected  
thee from being king.

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**Zacharias Post-Chastisement  
Response - Obedience**

Luke 1:57-64

57) Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should  
be delivered; and she brought forth a son.

58) And her neighbours and her cousins heard how  
the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and  
they rejoiced with her.

59) And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they  
came to circumcise the child; and they called him  
Zacharias, after the name of his father.

60) And his mother answered and said, Not so; but  
he shall be called John.

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## Zacharias Post-Chastisement Response - Obedience

Luke 1:57-64

61) And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name.

62) And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called.

63) And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all.

64) And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God.

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## Give God the Credit for Good

- Acknowledge God's Plan
  - Prayer
  - God's Providential Plan
- Confirm God's Plan
- Respond to God's Plan
- Believe

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## BELIEVE

Romans 4:18-22 (Regarding Abraham)

18) Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

19) And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

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## BELIEVE

### Romans 4:18-22 (Regarding Abraham)

- 20) He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;
- 21) And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.
- 22) And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

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## BELIEVE

### 2 Timothy 1:12

- 12) For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

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## BELIEVE

### John 20:29

- 29) Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed.

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