Setting the table: (Can I trust after being hurt)

Flow

What was the last promise you made to someone?

“I will clean up my mess when im done!”

“I promise you we will get your car done by 3pm Friday”!

“I will be there at 9am!”

**If you are like most people, you make commitments all the time. The question is how often do you keep your promise?**

Websters – a declaration that one will do or refrain from doing something specified.

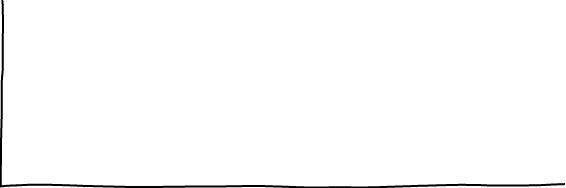
(When we don’t keep a promise we communicates that we do not have value for that person)

How many of us have hope in something that you have not seen fulfilled yet? ( I want to over come)

How many of us carry a promise of some sort, something you are believing God for?

We are all familiar with many different types of promises

* God’s promises that we find in the scriptures- 8800 promises
* Promises we make to God and or to others-



* It’s painful when we are given promise by someone we love or someone we trust and then that promise is not kept.
* We are left with wounds, questions, doubts, unbelief, inability to trust again.
* I want you to know that God does not make promises that He cannot Keep, He will fulfill the promise that He made.

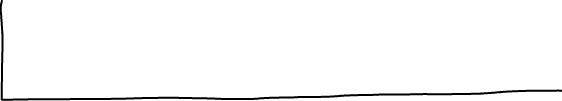
2 co 1:20 For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore, also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

* I think some of us may need healing from broken promises, we may need to forgive or be forgiven in order to be able to carry a God-given promise to full term.!

Data

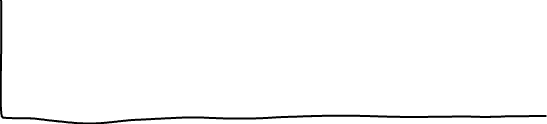
Title: Carrying a promise

Introduction: We are continuing in the book of Luke, taking our time and gleaning as much as we can from his writing. Luke is part of the synoptic gospels (means similar) which includes Mark, Matthew and Lukes Gospel. Mark wrote first then Matthew and Luke wrote after, Luke and Matt borrowed some of the same stories as Mark. **One thing I love about Luke, is his ability to represent Jesus in his love for the downcast**. Because Luke was a gentile he did not see through the same worldview lenses that the other writers did. Which means that Luke was able to see the outcast, outliers, unlovely and the least of these, those on the fringes and was able to see the great mercy of God to include them in his gospel.



Lk. 1:57-66 Now the time [[an](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%201&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24951an)]had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she gave birth to a son. **58**Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had [[ao](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%201&version=NASB1995" \l "fen-NASB1995-24952ao" \o "See footnote ao)]displayed His great mercy toward her; and they were rejoicing with her.

**59**And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him Zacharias, [[ap](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%201&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24953ap)]after his father. **60**But his mother answered and said, “No indeed; but he shall be called John.” **61**And they said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by that name.” **62**And they made signs to his father, as to what he wanted him called. **63**And he asked for a tablet and wrote as follows, “His name is John.” And they were all astonished. **64**And at once his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he began to speak in praise of God. **65**Fear came on all those living around them; and all these matters were being talked about in all the hill country of Judea. **66**All who heard them kept them in mind, saying, “What then will this child turn out to be?” For the hand of the Lord was certainly with him.



# Carrying the promise of God full term…



1. New vision
2. Identity of the vision
3. Blessing of the vision vision

## These 3 people all have something in common-

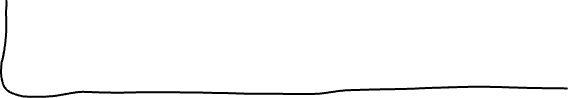
### All three were outcasts, outliers and easily overlooked because they did not meet others expectations.

**Have you ever felt like that? Experience rejection or the pain of disappointment because you did not meet expectations?**

Flow

## V57 “…she gave birth to a son” – New vision- redemption!

As I was preparing the message I was reminded of this incredible story that I got to be part of and now get to steward with you. In 2007 I was part of a team that went into Vera Cruz Mexico to bring renewal and marriage ministry. During the trip we discovered that one of the ladies at the church in Vera Cruz was not able to have children. Her and her husband were at a place of disappointment because of this. As she told one of our team members “Carrie” prayed for her and then prophesied to her and then gave her a word of knowledge. Carrie then told Erika that she was going to be expecting in 2 months. This all came to pass/ 11 months later Erika gave birth to a baby boy and they named him Santiago, he is now 17 years old.



### Elizabeth carried this unlikely promise in her belly for full term -I want to encourage you, there is deep satisfaction in carry the promise of God full term

### We must posture ourselves to fight for those promises we have. “Put in the work”

1 Tim 1:18 This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Tim%201%3A18&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29715a)]son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight,

## V58 “..neighbors and her relatives heard…and rejoiced with her”

There was a buzz in this community, there would have been an expectation building because of the miracle that happened.

### The testimony of the Lord! “…displayed great mercy”

### They heard Elizabeth carried the promise full term.

Something shifted-she was experiencing resistance

## V59 “*on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child” – Identity of the vision*

### They? Local Rabbi other helpers, Priest, mom & Dad (Rabbi did the cutting)

Our identity and purpose is built with adversity and promise

#### Used a flint stone – chipped an edge, surgical sharp and sterile

### Circumcision was commanded on 8th day, -Gen 17, Whereas naming the child on the 8th was only custom

#### They were going to call him Zacharias Jr – total assumption (they did not ask mother)

#### Elizabeth sys “no” – Exercises some boundaries

### Elizabeth and John were breaking custom because of Divine revelation

#### Gabriel spoke to Zacharias and gave him the name John (**Name is meaningful**)

#### Zach and Elizabeth are a picture of Aaronic pedigree, picture of israel, old, spent, barren- a failed promise – A couple who the Lord has not remembered.

#### John was the beginning of a new era between God and man (an era of Grace not law)

##### Zacharias = God remembers – the old covenant

##### John = God is a gracious giver

John represents this reality that God want to do a new thing – Not only does He remember (keep promises) but He takes action by applying grace, renewal, fulfillment and healing.

**Phil 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.**

What happens when we see fulfilment – when we carry the promise of God to full term?

Another shift because of obedience

## The community experienced a “spiritual reality event.” And they were all astonished”

When the Holy Spirit breaks into our reality and the KOG manifests in the supernatural it changes the atmosphere, it releases this reality that God is here and among us.

### “…his tongue loosed” and he praised God

### “Fear came on all those living around them”

Obedience will always result in spiritual influence unto a cultural shift

### “…all these matters were being talked about” in all the hill country

### “…kept them in mind”

Its amazing to see the narrative change in a culture! How do we change a narrative?-

Identify the old - Rewrite the new - Repeat

### John had spiritual momentum – because of the plans and purposes of God. “…the hand of the Lord was certainly with him.

Healing from broken promises

Possible direction for ministry

-Be bold

-Be concise

-Be inspired

Renewal of the mind

Learning to trust again

Courage and faith to receive something new