



Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

Part 4: When God Smiles

Big Question: Is it possible to experience God's smile in your life?

Luke 3:21-38 (NKJV); *John Baptizes Jesus*

²¹ When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. ²² And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

²³ Now Jesus Himself began *His ministry* at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) *the son of Joseph, the son of Heli,* ²⁴ *the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Janna, the son of Joseph,* ²⁵ *the son of Mattathiah, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai,* ²⁶ *the son of Maath, the son of Mattathiah, the son of Semei, the son of Joseph, the son of Judah,* ²⁷ *the son of Joannas, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri,* ²⁸ *the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmodam, the son of Er,* ²⁹ *the son of Jose, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi,* ³⁰ *the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonan, the son of Eliakim,* ³¹ *the son of Melea, the son of Menan, the son of Mattathah, the son of Nathan, the son of David,* ³² *the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon,* ³³ *the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah,* ³⁴ *the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,* ³⁵ *the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah,* ³⁶ *the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,*

³⁷ the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan, ³⁸ the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Series Theme: Luke presents Jesus as the Son of Man who came to seek the sons of men to save them and give them new life in Christ.

Putting A Smile on God's Face. 4 Breakthrough Principles for Experiencing God's Smile in Your Life:

1. Show the world that you are not _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ (v. 21a).

• **5 potential reasons why Jesus was baptized:**

1. To _____ with us.
2. To set the _____ for us.
3. To fulfill all _____—Jesus wanted to fulfill every aspect of the law and every aspect of God's requirements.
4. To give a preview of the _____—Jesus' future life, death, burial, and resurrection.
5. To give a public affirmation of His _____ by God the Father.¹

2. Push through until you have a _____ (v. 21b).

- Notice that while Jesus prayed, something happened!
- **PUSH**-Pray Until Something Happens.

3. Be _____ by the presence of the Holy Spirit (v. 22a).

- Notice that after Jesus had prayed...Heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit came down upon Jesus.
- What symbol did God send to represent the Holy Spirit?

Think about it: The dove hovered over the earth which was originally dark and void and then God brought forth the creation that we now enjoy. Then the flood waters came and brought devastation and destruction and then the dove was sent out and Noah and his family were sent out to a whole new world where humanity had a second chance at life. Now Jesus shows up on the scene and God sends forth the Holy Spirit who appears in a form to resemble a dove. Could this represent that God was once again giving the world a second chance at life? The dove was a harbinger of hope announcing that the Savior of the World had come to give the whole world another chance at a lasting relationship with God!

¹ Point 5 from John MacArthur.

- If you want to walk in victory in your Christian life, you must be daily filled by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit in the Believer's Life:

- The Holy Spirit gives us **new life** in Christ—turning a dead person into a living new creation (Titus 3:5, John 3:1-8).
- We are to be filled--**moment by moment** with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).
- We are to be **led** by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)
- Your **body** is now the **dwelling place** of God (I Corinthians 3:16, 19; 2 Corinthians 6:16)
- The Holy Spirit **empowers** you to obey God and not follow the desires of the flesh (Ezekiel 36:27).
- The Holy Spirit is your **Guide** and **Teacher** concerning the things of God (John 16:13).
- The Holy Spirit helps you to connect with God as "**Abba**," "Papa" (Galatians 4:6)
- The Holy Spirit produces **godly fruit** in your life (Galatians 5:22).
- The Holy Spirit gives you at least one **spiritual gift** to help build up the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:11).
- The Holy Spirit will one day **raise your dead body** from the grave (Romans 8:11)

4. Walk in God's _____ and experience His rapturous _____ (v. 22b).

Scripture Insight: [3:22](#) a voice came from heaven: This is one of two heavenly endorsements of Jesus' ministry. The other is found in [9:35](#). **You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased:** This statement combines two ideas. The idea of God's Son comes from [Ps. 2:7](#), a psalm about God's chosen King. The idea of God's pleasure comes from the image of the Servant in [Is. 42:1](#). This image depicts Jesus' election by God, and the special favor He enjoyed. The fact that Jesus is both King and Servant is fundamental to Jesus' identity.²

- Notice that all three Members of the Trinity are present at Jesus' Baptism: God the Son is getting baptized, The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus like a dove, and God the Father speaks out His approval of His Son.
 - Can we talk about God's favor for a minute? Because of your relationship with Jesus:
 - You are loved by God.
 - You are now part of God's family as an adopted son!
 - You can experience God's favor and smile.

² Quote from Thomas Nelson NKJV Study Bible.

Colossians 1:21b-23a (NLT); You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. ²² Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. **As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.**

²³ But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.

Bonus: So what are to learn about this long list of genealogies?

- These genealogies establish that Jesus was the rightful heir of King David.
- These genealogies show that Jesus was the Son of David through His adopted father Joseph (v. 23).
- Every name represents a person and every person matters to God!
- Luke's genealogy of Jesus goes all the way back to Adam showing that Jesus is the Savior for all the world!

Scripture Insight: 3:23-38 as was supposed: People naturally assumed that Jesus was the physical son of both Joseph and Mary. Luke corrected this misunderstanding by emphasizing that Jesus was only apparently Joseph's physical son. Luke's genealogy is unlike Matthew's, although both go back to David and Abraham. Luke traces Jesus' line all the way back to Adam, showing Jesus' significance for all people. Matthew provides the legal lineage from David through Joseph to Jesus, while Luke provides the physical lineage from David through Mary to Jesus.³

Take Home Truth: God's smile brightens even the darkest day. As I fully follow Jesus in all areas, I am able to experience God's smile in my life.

Action Step: Do you need to be baptized? Sign up today on your connection card in front of you.

Do you need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit? Confess any sin in your life and ask Him to fill you fresh and new!

Preview for next Sunday: How to Triumph in Temptation from Luke 4:1-15.

³ Quote from Thomas Nelson Study Bible.