

Pastor Ron Case  
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## **“Faith & Focus”**

**“For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.” (1 John 5:4)**

### **Who God Focuses On**

**Luke 3:1-2** – (1) “In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, (2) during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.”

### **Hearing and Acting**

**Luke 3:3-6** – (3) “And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (4) As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. (5) Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, (6) and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

**One with Focused Faith Does the Thing God said to do**

### **Focused Faith Deems Popularity Irrelevant**

**Luke 3:7-9** – (7) “He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? (8) Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. (9) Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’”

### **Focused Faith Produces Practical Changes**

**Luke 3:10-14** – (10) “And the crowds asked him, ‘What then shall we do?’ (11) And he answered them, ‘Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.’ (12) Tax collectors also came to be baptized

and said to him, ‘Teacher, what shall we do?’ (13) And he said to them, ‘Collect no more than you are authorized to do.’ (14) Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what shall we do?’ And he said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.’”

### **Focused Faith Always Points to Jesus**

**Luke 3:15-18** – (15) “As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, (16) John answered them all, saying, ‘I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (17) His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’ (18) So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.”

### **Focused Faith’s Offering**

**Luke 3:19-20** – (19) “But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, (20) added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.”

**“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2)**

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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