

**Spirit of Life Community Adventist Fellowship**  
**Pastor William Dawson**  
**Prayer Meeting 4-3-07 "God is in charge"**

**Luke 1:5-25, 57-66.** Everyone was tied into the old ideas, pattern, and process. God surprised them all! No matter how smart we think we are we must always remain humble before the plan of God. God is in charge. We must never let our religious practices, and tradition stand in the way of a true move of God. The revelation from God, sent by the angel Gabriel changed the traditional direction, and mindset of the church. God was in charge. God is even in charge of names. He gives new names to match with, and identify new levels, and new assignments. When Abram took faith in God to heart, he received a name change. He became Abraham. The name Abram means **exalted father**. The name Abraham means **father of a multitude**. God gave Abram a new name to indicate his new place, and position in the spirit. This works much like getting a promotion on the job. You are promoted from Assistant Manager to Manager. The name change identifies your new position, and responsibility in the company. Just as God gave Abram a new name, God sent His angel with a new name for John.

Notice the level of resistance and struggle in sticking with God's instructions. First Zacharias resisted the change. Even in the face of an angel, he refused to submit without a fight - see **vs. 13-18**. (You can imagine how hard it is for God to get us to change after we have heard the quite voice of the Holy Spirit). Can you think of times you have resisted God's direction because it did not fit your plans?

See **vs. 59-61**. Notice the social pressure to conform. If you are not careful, the crowd will crowd out the will of God. His mother was cooperating with the will of God, and the people resisted her desire to change **only because no one had ever been named that in her family before this date. God was using them to break-up new ground.**

Because Zacharias, and his wife fought to obey God, God's was free to release His favor to bless **all the people**. One of the reasons why there is so much resistance to you doing all God has called you to do is because Satan is trying to keep other people from getting blessed. Zacharias, and his wife were already blessed. He had seen the angel. She had become pregnant in her old age. They were already blessed. But because they fought for the demonstration of the full will of God, the rest of the people were blessed. This means most of the people who need a blessing will only be blessed as you obey all God has placed before you.

Share one thing you know God wants to change about you. We will join with you in prayer for your courage to go to the next level with God.