

December 14, 2008

# The Praises of Christmas



1. How does knowing about God's quiet providence give you any hope in your everyday circumstances of life – both easy and difficult? Can you think of any stories/testimonies where God had worked through you in mighty ways and you didn't know until sometime later? Share that testimony.
2. Do you often think that if you do "x+y" then God will usually do "z". How is that an unhelpful way to think? What examples in Scripture (other than Zechariah and Elizabeth) do you find that "equation" not working? How could changing your mindset regarding that "equation" free you?
3. How does knowing God's presence near you give you hope (or why should it give you hope and freedom from fear)?
4. Have you ever seen God even working your sin (or punishment for your sin) for his glory? How does that give you hope? How does that spur you on towards faith and obedience?
5. What gifts from God are you tempted to hold on to? How could you better show God your love for him with those gifts?
6. Are you ever tempted to think that God's glory is against your good? Why? How has God proved to you that his glory is also your good?
7. Take time to pray through Luke 1:76-79. Ask the Lord to continue to fulfill these promises in your life and the lives of others around you in this world. Pray for great miracles to take place!