

# **Reflection: The Child We Desire (December 19)**

**Paul Turner**

**There is no desire like the desire to have a child. God has surrounded the miracle of human conception with the virtue of love and the joy of pleasure. People not only desire a spouse. They desire a child with that spouse.**

**Perhaps God has written this pleasure into our lives in order to ensure that the human race would endure. There probably wouldn't be so many of us if the romantic act of conceiving a child caused pain instead of pleasure.**

**The desire for a child appears again and again in the scriptures. In the Book of Judges, the wife of Manoah had been barren throughout her life. But an angel of the Lord appeared and promised her a child. Neither the angel's name nor the woman's name is known. But the boy, consecrated to God from the womb, was named Samson.**

**Luke's gospel tells of Zechariah and Elizabeth who were advanced in age and had no children. The angel Gabriel appeared to the husband to announce that his prayer had been heard. The couple would have a son, whom they named John.**

**These parents, like all others, taste eternity. A child embodies the hope that the parents' names, lives, and love will continue long after they are gone.**

**Next week Christians will celebrate the birth of a child who was desired not just by his parents but by many ancestors. A truly unusual child: Humans desire to become eternal like God; God desired to become temporal like us.**

*Give Us This Day 3/12 (December 2013):201.*