

Senator Rick Santorum:

I'm here because I'm very excited. Is God good?

Audience:

Yes. Amen.

Senator Rick Santorum:

Is God good?

Audience:

Yes.

Senator Rick Santorum:

Is God good?

Audience:

All the time.

Senator Rick Santorum:

Thank you. We've been at this as a movement fighting for life for over 50 years. When I got involved, I came into the United States Senate, because I really didn't do much when I was in the House. But in the Senate, I always say I came to the United States Senate and found the Lord. I know that they didn't think he was there, but he is, in fact, there. I became much more serious about my faith when I came to the Senate. That drove me to be more serious about what I thought God was calling me to do. At the time that that happened, this partial birth abortion bill was being considered on the floor of the Senate.

Senator Rick Santorum:

The person who was managing the bill decided he didn't want to do it anymore. He was taking too much heat at home. So he decided to withdraw his, not the sponsorship, but he didn't want to manage the bill. It was up for override at President Clinton's veto. I'll be honest with you. Nobody else wanted to do it. So, I don't know what it was. He said, "Anybody willing to step forward and do it?" And I just said, "I'll do it." I'd never said the word "abortion" on the floor of the House or Senate in five years [inaudible 00:01:31]. In fact, never entered into debate. Never talked about abortion. Never. I was from Pennsylvania. It was hard enough being a conservative, much less being an outspoken one on this controversial issue.

Senator Rick Santorum:

When I decided to do that, it changed my life, because I stepped out and stepped into a world within national headlines of a debate. The most amazing thing is that up until then, there was never really debates on the floor of the House or the Senate about abortion. Supreme Court had put that away. We couldn't legislate on it. So, there were never great debates. There was never a discussion. Republicans... Democrats talked would talk about it all the time. Republicans, we never talked about abortion unless we were at pro-life [inaudible 00:02:21].

Senator Rick Santorum:

We never talked about it. We certainly never talked about it on the House or Senate floor. Here we are now, in front of the cameras, talking about overriding the president's veto. Amazing things happened to me. You may have heard the story about a baby crying in the Senate chambers. You may have heard that story. I was describing this horrific procedure of partial birth abortion, and I pointed to the graphic drawing of the procedure, because a member of the Senate had said, "Well, all these type of procedures are really gruesome. If you had appendicitis, if you had your appendix taken out, the description of the surgery would be a gruesome thing." I pointed at the drawing of the baby and said, "That's not an appendix. It's a baby. It's a baby." At that very moment, a baby started crying on the floor of the chamber. That's a remarkable thing for many reasons, the timing that that happened. The most remarkable thing is babies aren't allowed in the Senate chambers. You have to be five years of age, six years of age to be in the galleries.

Senator Rick Santorum:

I was in the Senate for 12 years. I talked to people who were there for 30 years, and they had never heard a baby cry in the United States Senate. But in the very moment I was saying that, someone in the gallery was walking in, had opened up the door, and out in the hallway, there's a little baby from London, England, crying. That baby's voice pierced the chamber. I could tell you story after story.

Senator Rick Santorum:

I could tell you the story of waiting one night to close down the Senate in the middle of an override, the second time to override a president veto. We had the vote the next morning. I thought we were going to lose. We were a couple votes short. I called my wife and I said, "I just feel like [inaudible 00:04:28] ready to close up the Senate [inaudible 00:04:29]." It was about eight o'clock at night. I said, "I just feel like God's calling me to say something." There may be some senators at home, and they don't have a life and they're watching C-SPAN. You never know. They could be watching me." So I went out to the presiding officer, a senator from Ohio, Mike DeWine, and I said, "Mike, I'm only going to be a few minutes. If you don't mind just hanging in here," because he had the graveyard shift, and there was nobody after him to take over in the chair. He said, "Sure."

Senator Rick Santorum:

So two hours later, I finished. Don't worry. I'm not going to go that long tonight. So I finished, and I poured my heart out. I put out pictures of children who were calling us, families calling us and sending us pictures of their disabled children. Why disabled children? Because the other side, Hillary Clintons, the Barbara Fosters, the Dianne Feinsteins were saying we had to keep this procedure legal because people find out late in pregnancy that the baby that they're expecting isn't what they wanted. That the baby would be disabled, and then they need to abort these disabled children. So people would be sending me all these pictures. "Here's my little boy or girl." "Here I am in my wheelchair. They're talking about getting rid of me."

Senator Rick Santorum:

And so I told those stories. The next morning I thought, "Okay, I've done it. I really delivered the message," and we lost by two votes. We were walking out of Senate chamber, looking at the Supreme Court ruefully, because that's where the Supreme Court is right across from it. I thought I'd failed. I was a failure. Not just because when I called my wife it was eight o'clock at night. I had four kids, and they were crying, all of them. I said, "I can't go home again that night." When I got home, they were all

asleep. When I left in the morning, they were all asleep. I was a young guy being a horrible dad and being a failure as a senator. That's how I felt.

Senator Rick Santorum:

Two days later, staff person brought me an email from a young man from Michigan State University. The email said, "Two nights ago, tonight, I was sitting, watching. I was flipping through the channels, and I came across you. There was this picture of this person in a wheelchair, so I stopped and listened to what you were talking about. As we sat there, you talked about the debate of overriding the president's veto. I looked down. I saw my girlfriend had a tear running down her cheek. I asked her what was wrong. She said, 'I'm pregnant. I had an abortion scheduled for tomorrow, and I wasn't going to tell you, but I'm not having the abortion.'"

Senator Rick Santorum:

In the eyes of the world, I'd failed. In my eyes, I'd failed. But God is good.

Audience:

All the time.

Senator Rick Santorum:

God sees more than we see in our little lives. He sees everything that's going on. He sees all the effort so many of you have put in over the course of this national tragedy of 63 million children. Talk about World War II and the Holocaust times 10. And we had presided over it. We used to say we fought, but we didn't win. But we kept fighting. That's the joyous message. What they meant for evil by releasing that report, that opinion, God's going to use for good. He's girding our loins. We're getting ready.

Senator Rick Santorum:

We're going to see Roe versus Wade overturned. We're going to see all the work, all the prayer come to... I don't know if any of you thought in your lifetime you'd see Roe versus Wade overturned. We are here because we didn't give up. Do you understand how unusual it is for a Supreme Court decision to not eventually take hold in America and be accepted? Maybe four or five times in the history of our country that's happened. It happened here, in spite of the fact that every institution in American life was against us. Academia was against. Hollywood was against. The news media was against us. Every institution but the church, and frankly half the church is now against us. Everywhere you go, abortion is a good thing. And yet, you remained faithful, so God was faithful. You fought. You didn't give up. God has rewarded us [inaudible 00:10:08]. Praise God.

Audience:

Amen.

Senator Rick Santorum:

There's a lesson here, ladies and gentlemen. There's a lesson. If you are faithful, he will be faithful. You will fail and fail and fail, as we did for 50 years. We failed. But we didn't give up, and God has blessed us. I say that to you because if you look around this world and particularly this country, uniquely this country... I just spent two weeks in Europe. No one in Europe is talking about the question of what a woman is. No one has any question about what a woman is in Europe. They know the difference

between a boy and a girl in Europe. Liberal, socialist Europe, unchristianized Europe, knows the difference, but we don't.

Senator Rick Santorum:

And yet, how much are we doing to fight that battle? What are we doing to fight all the battles that the low culture, the secular left is trying to silence us and destroy the moral fabric of our country. How much are we willing to sacrifice and stand in the gap to fight? The answer is so far not much. Let's just be really honest. Not much. We have gay marriage in this country. Does anybody really object to that anymore? Do you ever hear it talked about anymore? The abomination. A marriage, instituted by God. Does anybody ever talk about the offense of that? No, we don't, because we don't want to offend anybody.

Senator Rick Santorum:

I'll tell you who you're offending. I'll tell you who you're offending. But we don't seem to care about that, because it doesn't affect our social status or our feedback on social media or how our colleagues at work look at us. Look at what's going on in the workplace, and all of the lectures that you're getting about tolerance and conforming to the new world culture. How many fight against that? how many stand up? If you do, great, but the reality is we're losing. We're winning on life because we didn't give up, because we didn't accept a lie as truth. But everywhere else in our culture we are. Do you think God's going to bless that?

Senator Rick Santorum:

I heard someone say that if we continue on the way that we are, America continues to survive, that God owes Sodom and Gomorrah an apology. If we aren't going to fight, we can't find seven good people, then don't think that America is just going to keep on going. Why is this happening? You're good people. There are a lot of really good people in America. There are a lot of people who really care about this country, who care about the values that you and I share. Then why aren't we doing anything? Well, there's a reason for that. The reason is we're the richest country in the history of the world. We have more wealth in this country than any country in human history.

Senator Rick Santorum:

You say, "Well, what's that have to do with it?" Because we have replaced the God of the Bible with the god of self. It's about us. How many people get up every day and realize this fact: everything you have including the next breath you take is a gift from God. Everything. We happen to believe in America that we actually deserve this. That we've actually earned it. That we did this. That's a lie, but we won't accept that lie. When horrible things happen to us, we get angry at God, who gave us the good thing in the first place. Angry at something because the gift that you have has been taken away? How about thanking God for the gift you have?

Senator Rick Santorum:

But we don't look at life that way anymore. How many phrases of the Bible talk about the rich man not being able to enter Heaven? Easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich man. You're the richest ever. Even poor people in America are the richest ever. What does the Lord say? "To whom much is given"?

Audience:

Much is required.

Senator Rick Santorum:

He says it twice. "To whom much is given, much is expected. To more is given, more is required." Consider yourself part of the required class. But what do we do when God's laws are violated? "Well, I don't want to lose my job." Whose job is it? God's not going to bless us. We may still have our stuff. We're going to be hollowed souls. I don't know about you, but I think that Bible saying is true, when much is given, much is expected. When more is given, more is required. I think the bar is pretty high for us.

Senator Rick Santorum:

Look, just look at what all God needs from you is to love him and trust him and be faithful to him. That's it. Look at what's happening with [inaudible 00:17:41] with the abortion issue, and understand that if we have the courage to fight and resist and speak the truth and do it with love, and underscore that, do it with love and understanding, what a difference we'll make in this world. This country is still the beacon of hope for the world. It is still the best opportunity to change the world.

Senator Rick Santorum:

I went through Europe. As I mentioned, I was there for the anniversary of [inaudible 00:18:20]. I remember sailing down the Rhine and down the [inaudible 00:18:23]. Something really struck me. I went to Vienna. You know there are 365 churches in Vienna? One more beautiful than the other. Incredible. Every little town, there's a church or two. Even little towns like six houses, there's a church. If you went to those churches, they're unbelievable. I remember going down the Rhine with all these castles. Famous places on the Rhine. The Rhine [inaudible 00:19:03]. But for every castle, there were five churches. You realize, people who were, by today's standards, dirt poor, spent more money on churches than they did on castles to protect themselves. What were their values? Where are yours?

Senator Rick Santorum:

We have people, leaders... We were going to Hungary. There was a facility there. There was a statue. It said, "Stephen of Hungary, first king of Hungary." He conquered the Hungarian tribes, all these different tribes. There was no country there at the time. [inaudible 00:19:44]. He conquered it. And what did he do? He spent the next 40 years building churches and other places for people to learn their faith. He was the first Christian of that era. He takes care of people, sure. He understood that each one of us are ensouled. We have soul. That our lives here are short and the lives of eternity are forever. We had leaders and people who understood that and lived their life understanding the proportionality between the two.

Senator Rick Santorum:

If we don't do it, ladies and gentlemen, if the people in this room who care enough to come to a dinner like this to support an organization like this don't do something, well who is? So what should we do? My answer is always the same. Whenever people ask me that, I just say, "Do something." Whatever it is, do something. But if you're doing something, do more, because whatever you're doing, it isn't enough because we're losing. I know people don't like to hear that, but it's true. We're losing. So we need to do more.

Senator Rick Santorum:

Then finally, we have an opportunity to do something here in the State of Ohio once Roe versus Wade is struck down, and that is to be salt and light. Those who defend abortion are liars, because you can't defend abortion telling the truth. You can't. Because people simply won't accept it. Yes, it is okay for someone to casually have sex to kill a child because they just don't want to bother with the consequences of their actions. That's the truth of the vast majority of abortions, and they will never tell you. They'll never tell you that. They will have to lie, and it will take you to tell the truth. But you know what? You can't tell the truth with your mouth closed. You have to talk to people. You have to care as much about this as if it really mattered, because it really does.

Senator Rick Santorum:

We have an opportunity here in the State of Ohio to probably ban abortions, maybe all of them. We have an opportunity here to save thousands of lives every year, and do what God is calling us to do, but you have to have the courage to do it. You have to have the skill to do it, which means you have to prepare to do it. You say, "Well, I'm not a legislator. I'm not this. I'm not that." Legislators, in the end, don't win this battle. People in the cubicle next to you that you talk to, that's how you win this battle. You be as passionate as the people you see on TV who are as passionate on the other side. You see their passion. It's ugly because it's a lie, and lies are of...

Audience:

The devil.

Senator Rick Santorum:

Who's real. We need to be of Christ. We need to be loving. We need to be caring for everyone involved in an abortion decision. So I'm here because I'm excited. We have an opportunity to do good, to do God's will and to do something that's going to save thousands of lives. There's also an opportunity for each and every one of you to get some practice and be part of the resistance. I know some of you do in part, but as I said before, you're not doing enough because we're losing.

Senator Rick Santorum:

So I'm here to say thank you for being here, thank you for your willingness to at least listen to someone who's been in the fight and has been blessed with more than you can possibly imagine. I'll leave with a last lesson. I've had so many in my life. The one that just happened is... I have eight children. One is in Heaven, so we're raising seven. As many of you know, our youngest daughter is named Bella. Bella was born with Trisomy 18. We found out about that after she was born. We were told she would only live a few hours or days, maybe a few weeks. We were sent home on hospice. We were told she wasn't going to survive. So we used to celebrate her birthday every week. We'd have a birthday party for her every week. Our hope was that we'd have as many birthday parties for her as normal people would have in life. Well tomorrow, Bella turns 14.

Senator Rick Santorum:

Bella doesn't walk. She doesn't talk. She doesn't eat. She is fed by tubes. I always say Bella can only do one thing, really only do one thing, and she does it better than anybody I know. Bella can love. I remember looking down at her when I was going through this really difficult time trying to grasp the severity of what we were dealing with. She was in her crib. I kept looking at her. I looked at her and I said, "She'll never be able to do anything for me. I'll never hear her say a word. I'll never see her do anything. She's completely helpless, completely disabled." All she can do is love. That's all I want from

her. It's all I need from her. I thought to myself, "That's how God sees me." In the eyes of God, I'm a complete [inaudible 00:26:52]. Given the awesomeness of God and his abilities, I am nothing. I can do nothing for him, and all he wants is for me to love him. I always say Bella's the greatest teacher I've ever had in my life. She's taught me so many important lessons.

Senator Rick Santorum:

Well, in October of this last year, I had a call from my daughter. She's my oldest, and she has been married for four and a half years, and they have been trying to get pregnant and they haven't been able to. Done all the things you can do. They decided maybe God wanted them to be foster parents, so they signed up and went through all the foster parent thing. For six months, they were promised child after child. It never happened. For some reason, last minute, sometimes the day of, the foster child got pulled, and they never had a foster child.

Senator Rick Santorum:

She called me and said, "Dad, I just got a call from a friend of mine. She was at Catholic mass on a Tuesday morning at a church outside of Annapolis, Maryland. She had to go to mass that morning. The priest began the mass and said, "I want you to know there's a woman in our community who's pregnant and has a baby being delivered in a couple weeks, and the baby may have, we don't know, but may have some medical issues. If you know anybody that might be interested in adopting a baby that may have some medical issues?" So her friend, knowing my daughter's situation, ran in the back and said, "I have the perfect person. She has a little special needs sister, and so she'd be perfect." The priest said, "Fine," got in touch. Long story short, they get her in touch with the mom.

Senator Rick Santorum:

So they had this conversation, very brief, on the phone. The mom said, "Yeah, let's have a meeting." So she drives up to Annapolis and sits down with the mom. The mom starts to tell her story. Goes through the fact that she's married, she has another child, but she just can't handle any additional stress. It's hard enough they were debating whether to have an abortion actually. They debated that. She said she tells the story, she has this little iPhone 6. She showed it to her. She said, "I pulled this out of my pocket while I was going through this issue of whether to have an abortion or not," and the phone was ringing. It was calling the Catholic priest. I haven't been to church in three or four years. I hadn't talked to this priest in a long, long time, but the phone was ringing. It was his name. By the time I got to it, he had answered the phone.

Senator Rick Santorum:

"So I picked up the phone. I said, 'Hi, Father. This is such-and-such. I'm sorry to call you. Maybe I'm supposed to talk to you.'" And so they had a conversation. The priest referred her to a crisis pregnancy center. So she talked to the people at the pregnancy center. There's a group of nuns that work with that pregnancy center. So one of them talked to her and became her counselor. They talked, and they went through the whole thing. The counselor said, "I'd like to send you a book for you to read." She said, "Okay." So she sent her the book. The book was called Bella's Gift. It's the book my wife and I wrote about our daughter Bella.

Senator Rick Santorum:

So my daughter, sitting there, listening to this and she said, "Did you read the book?" She said, "Well, I read the introduction, and it so moved me. It blew me away, that I decided then and there I wasn't going

to have an abortion. But then I just couldn't read the rest of the book. I just couldn't do it. But I set the book on my night stand, and every night before I went to bed, I would say a prayer that whoever adopted my little girl or baby would love that baby as much as the Santorums love Bella." Elizabeth said, "Well, I should tell you something. That book's about my sister." She didn't know that. She said, "My mom and dad wrote the book, but I wrote the introduction." She said, "You should also know that sister that you were working with, does her name happen to be Sister Mary Doolittle?" She said, "Yes, it is." She said, "Well, five months ago, I saw Sister Mary Doolittle at an event. I know her. She told me about a woman that she was working with. She didn't tell me her name, but she told me she was working with this woman who was dealing with this situation. She asked me to pray for you and your daughter, so for the past five months I've been praying for you and your daughter."

Senator Rick Santorum:

And so, two weeks later, little Zellie Marianna was born. She's now our first grandchild. Our first grandchild is a little girl who may have been aborted and has special needs. Thankfully not very severe at all. What a better gift. I told Elizabeth, I said, "No matter what happens through this process after this first meeting," I said, "There's one thing that God has done for you. He has convinced you with absolute certainty that this little girl belongs in our family more than if she were conceived naturally in our family, because God again has blessed us because our life has been about protecting the unborn and fighting for those with special needs," so of course our first grandchild would be an adopted little girl with special needs.

Senator Rick Santorum:

Do you really think you can out-give God? Do you really worry that if you sacrifice for him that he won't be faithful? What are you afraid of? Yeah, the world's hard, the world's ugly, you're going to lose, you're going to get beaten, but praise God. To suffer for him. Let's see great things happen in Ohio. Let's see Ohio stand for life. Let's see the [inaudible 00:34:57] for life because of what you're doing for the State of Ohio. God bless you.