

Waiting Upon the Lord

Unexpected surprises come in many ways from the Lord, and He is certainly full of them. One of my favorite stories in the Bible is that Simeon from Luke 2.

Remember him? He is the old man who has been waiting in the Temple for years expecting to see Messiah. Luke says:

“It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.” (Luke 2:26)

As Mary and Joseph make their way through the crowd to have baby Jesus dedicated, suddenly Simeon swoops in, takes the boy in his arms, and praises God. I can see the old man now... prophesying with tears streaming down his beard... baby Jesus thrust skyward above his head. I don’t know why but my eyes well up even now thinking about it.

Luke first describes Simeon as *“righteous and devout.”* What a way to be known! Luke next says that Simeon, *“was waiting for the consolation of Israel.”* He is waiting to see God’s Messiah! How long has he been waiting, praying, anticipating God’s promise? Oh, to wait on God, knowing that His promises are true. What a blessing!

Maybe the greatest truth that defines Simeon’s life is that of the Holy Spirit Himself. You see, the Holy Spirit was upon

Him. And the Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would see Messiah. And the Holy Spirit guided him through the Temple that day. And... well, you get the picture.

Of all the things Luke says to describe Simeon, the thing I would most cherish for myself... in other words, my deepest hope is that my life is defined by the gracious presence and transformational power of the Spirit of God within me! My prayer is the same for you.

Furthermore, I certainly am thankful for the older men and women who have influenced my life, prophesied over me, guided my choices, blessed my decisions. Godly men and women like Simeon and Anna, righteous and devout saints of God, waiting upon Him for the blessing of His people and influenced in every way by the Spirit’s presence in their lives.

Let us walk with the Spirit and learn to wait upon the Lord!

Prayer

Father of all love and mercy, God of all compassion, make Jesus known in me and through me, so others may know that He has come. May the Spirit of Holiness guide my life and transform my character, as I walk with Him and serve others in Your name. I pray in Jesus’ name and through the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Scott