

# ***Until You Hold What You've Heard***

*LUKE 2:25-38*

## **I. SIMEON EAGERLY WAITS FOR THE MESSIAH**

- A. Simeon and Anna are two characters mentioned only in the gospel of Luke who often get overlooked, but I believe they teach us something very profound about the kind of faith that God is looking for in the earth before He returns (Lk. 18:1-8). **Those who don't stop seeking God in faith until they hold what they've heard.**

***25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. (Luke 2:25, NKJV)***

- B. Right away, we learn that Simeon is recognized for three things: being just and devout, waiting for the Messiah to come, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. He is not identified by his wealth, his pedigree, his position, personal achievements, or how well he kept the commandments. He is simply identified by his unwavering faith in the promise of God. **God sees faith that doesn't quit and calls it righteousness.**

***26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.***

- C. **Revelation is the fuel for persevering faith.** Simeon knew the Scriptures and the prophecies about the coming of the Messiah, but he also had a personal promise revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would see the Messiah before he died with his own eyes. If we are weary and the flame of our faith is burning low, I do not believe we have a fire issue, but a fuel issue. We need the costly oil of the Holy Spirit to bring revelation to our hearts (Matt. 25:1-13; Eph. 1:17-18; Col. 1:9-14). More than anything else, Paul prayed for the churches to have their eyes of their understanding opened, that they would be filled with the knowledge of God and His love for them, and that they would know His will. Ask Him to speak to you today.

- D. **What has our faith heard?** We cannot allow the cement of our faith to dry on the foundation of false assumptions and wrong ideas about Jesus and the gospel. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Rom. 10).
- E. I find it more necessary than ever before to be clear on the matters regarding the utmost purpose of our existence, for this knowledge has the power to determine the course of our entire life. **What we believe about our future will determine how we live today.** We need to hear clearly about the nature of God, the identity of Jesus, the gospel of salvation and the future hope of all who believe (1 Pet. 1:3-9).

**9 receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls. (1 Pet. 1:9)**

## II. SIMEON SEES THE SALVATION OF THE LORD

- A. **Until the Glory of the Lord fills the Temple.** Simeon was led by the Spirit into the Temple where he would finally see the salvation of the Lord in the Child Jesus. Will we allow the same Holy Spirit to lead us throughout our earthly days until we see the glory of God come into His temple, both personally and corporately? We can be both grateful for what the Lord has done while we also deeply long for the fullness of His promises to come to pass--until we become all that He has made us to be--to have unbroken communion with Him and be conformed into the image of His Son (Jn. 17:3, 20-26; Rom. 8:29; Rev. 22:3-5).

**27 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, 28 he took Him up in his arms and blessed God...(Lk. 2:27-28, NKJV)**

- B. **Until His Salvation Burns as a Lamp to All Nations.** Simeon not only understood that Jesus was the fulfillment of the promise of salvation that would come to Israel, but also that He would be the Savior of the world--a light to bring revelation to all nations. It is too small a thing if the gospel we have believed is kept within our walls. When the gospel revolves around me, my life will eventually trend toward spiritual arrogance, entitlement, apathy, boredom and in-action. But if Jesus is at the center of the gospel, my lifestyle, attitudes,

words and actions will begin to be transformed into His glorious image as I am set like a watchman on His wall, seeking Him and serving others until everyone sees His glory and knows His salvation (Isa. 62:1-7).

**29 "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation 31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel." (Lk. 2:29-32, NKJV)**

- C. **What will we do with what we see?** Knowledge without action is worthless, but knowledge that is rightly applied is wisdom that is worth more than all the treasures of this world.

**34 Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against 35 (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." (Lk. 2:34-35, NKJV)**

- D. **The Gospel will offend the mind to reveal the heart.** Simeon prophetically prepared Mary for the necessary pain that would come as a result of Jesus' destiny and mission on the earth. Many would receive Him with joy, while many others would reject Him unto being crucified. If we want to continue to carry the gospel message onward, then we must be prepared for the offense that it will cause in order for hearts to be revealed and healed of sin.

### III. PERSEVERING FAITH

- A. **Ears to Hear.** Spend the daily investment to not only know what the Scriptures say, but to hear what the Spirit is saying to you here and now. Put up your sail and wait for His whisper. Be led by the Spirit.
- B. **Hands to Hold.** Keep your hands active and ready to hold what the Lord puts into your care. Be faithful with the few.

C. **Mouths to Speak.** Be bold to speak with all who are looking for redemption. What spills out of you when you bump into someone?

*7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Lk. 18:7-8, NKJV)*

*1 For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, And for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, Until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, And her salvation as a lamp that burns. 2 The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, And all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the Lord will name...6 I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, 7 And give Him no rest till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. (Isa. 62:1-7, NKJV)*