

Christmas Characters – Simeon and Anna

Christmas Characters Series (CC-03)

December 26, 2021

- Jesus Presented at the Temple – Luke 2:21-24

Simeon – Luke 2:25-35

- Righteous and devout
- Eagerly waiting for Messiah to come
- The Holy Spirit was upon him
- The Holy Spirit revealed he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah
- Character quality – patiently waiting for God's promise
- Led by the Spirit to the Temple
 - Mary and Joseph came to present Jesus as the law required
 - Simeon takes Jesus in his arms
 - Rejoices, reveals and blesses

Anna, a prophet – Luke 2:36-39

- Widow for 84 years
- Continuous worship at the temple
- Character quality – years of devotion and dedication
- Resulting in seeing the redemption of God
- A witness to those expectant for Messiah

Jesus of Nazareth – Luke 2:39-40

- Grew up healthy and strong
- Filled with wisdom and God's favor
- Luke 2:52 (NLT2) Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.

The Holy Spirit

- Upon Kings, Priests and Prophets
- Within – the promise of Jesus with his ascension
- John 14:17 (NLT2) He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.
- John 16:7

- Acts 1:8

Led by the Spirit – In God's place at God's time

- The Spirit led Simeon to the Temple
- Luke 4:1-2
 - Matthew 6:13 'And do not lead us into temptation...
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13 ...He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.
- Romans 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
- Galatians 5:25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.
- Galatians 5:16-17
- AWARE Series – perceptive about the unseen realm
 - Genesis 5:22 – Enoch walked with God
 - Genesis 6:9 – Noah walked with God
 - Genesis 24:40 – Abraham walked faithfully with God
- 2 Corinthians 13:14 ...and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- John 14:26 ...will remind you of everything I have told you.
- Opportunities – designed by God and prompted by the Spirit
- What if Simeon had been distracted?
 - Luke 19:44

Characters of Christmas – Qualities

- Zechariah and Elizabeth – careful to obey all of God's commandments and regulations
- Mary – surrendered – be it done unto me as you have purposed
- Joseph – spiritual so that he can believe a virgin conception
- Simeon – led by the Spirit to see God's promise fulfilled in his lifetime
- Anna – faithful, dedicated – lifetime of worship and prayer
- Yours? - _____