



Merry Christmas
Extraordinary Faith in God

Luke 2:25-38

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This account occurred eight days after Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, at least a year or more before the wise men to visit Jesus and just days before Joseph and Mary flee as refugees to Egypt. Here Joseph and Mary are dedicating Jesus in the temple of Jerusalem and while they were there two older characters named Simeon and Anna who proclaim Jesus' Messiahship. Both are mentioned nowhere else in scripture.

Luke 2:25-38

"Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 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. 27 And he came in 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 and said, 29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." 33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." 36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem."

- **When you WAIT on the Lord, it means that you are TRUSTING in the Lord.**
- **When we are in God's WORD, then we can recognize and understand God's WILL.**

"He will swallow up death forever! The Sovereign Lord will wipe away all tears. He will remove forever all insults and mockery against his land and people. The Lord has spoken! 9 In that day the people will proclaim, "This is our God! We trusted in him, and he saved us! This is the Lord, in whom we trusted. Let us rejoice in the salvation he brings!" **Isaiah 25:8-9**

"Death is swallowed up in victory" **1 Corinthians 15:54**

"I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your instructions are written on my heart."

Psalm 40:8

There are 3 things to consider why we wait on God:

I. God's PLAN is ONLY Revealed by the HOLY SPIRIT.

"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." **Philippians 1:6**

- **We need the help of the Holy Spirit for SALVATION, WISDOM, AND PURPOSE.**

II. To Have PATIENCE with God is to Practice PERSEVERANCE.

- **Patience demonstrates complete TRUST in the Lord.**

"For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus." **Ephesians 2:6**

III. PRAYER and FASTING Trains Us to Remain FAITHFUL in the Midst of SUFFERING.

- **The victory that overcomes the world is our FAITH.**

When we wait on the Lord, we are putting aside our strength, our ways of doing things and turn to Jesus. Are we seeking out the Holy Spirit? Are we in God's Word enough to understand the Lord's Will and do what He tells us to do?