

Simeon – A Focus on Hope

Two Things That We Will Learn Repeatedly ...

1. There are lots of people (in fact, the vast majority) who want to celebrate Christmas in the true “Christmas Spirit,” but they are simply not focused on the right things.
2. If others are your priority, you won't miss Christmas.

The Scriptures

“On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise Him, He was named Jesus, the name the angel had given Him before He had been conceived. ²²When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”



²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for Him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all people, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ...

³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, His mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.” - Luke 2:21-35

Simeon's Focus

- ☐ It seems that Simeon was focused on ONE thing — HOPE!

The Man — Simeon

- ☐ The name — Simeon — means “heard.” Hebrew: שמעון
- ☐ Probably an older man living in Jerusalem.

His Character:

- ☐ He was righteous. (This doesn't mean perfect!)
- ☐ He was devout. The word means “cautious”.

- ☐ He was Spirit-led. This is the Key!

“... and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit...” - Luke 2:25-27

His Connection

Different things were “revealed” to Simeon:

1. What he would see before his death. (the “Lord's Christ”)

“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
2. Where he should be to meet Mary and Joseph.

“Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus...” - Luke 2:27
3. Who Jesus the Christ really was!

“For my eyes have seen your salvation...” - Luke 2:30
4. The future for Jesus, for Israel and for Mary.

“Then Simeon blessed them and said...” - Luke 2:34

His Hope

1. His hope was in the Messiah.

“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
2. His hope was in a Promise.

“He was waiting for the consolation of Israel...” - Luke 2:25
 “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.” - Isaiah 40:1
 “The LORD will surely comfort Zion...” - Isaiah 51:3
3. His hope was in the Future.

“For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all people...” - Luke 2:30,31
4. His hope was in the Salvation of both Gentiles and Jews.

“...a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” - Luke 2:32

He wasn't blind to the present or to the troubles, but he didn't focus on those things.

“Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, His mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against.” - Luke 2:34

My Focus

1. People who look to the future, instead of dwelling on the past, have hope!
2. There is always trouble in our world, and we are foolish to ignore it. However, my focus cannot be on the trouble, but on God's promises.

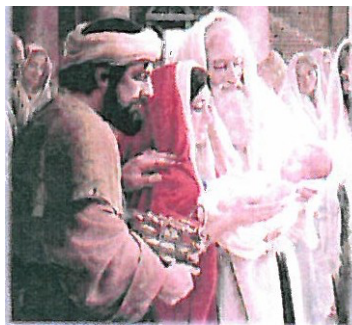
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