

Christmas 2021 Series
Week 2 outline
Luke 2:22-35
12.19.21

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS
Simeon: Living in Prayerful Expectancy

I. **The CAUSE: A Life of Prayerful Expectancy is Powerful and Effective** (vs 25-27)

A. **The Righteous AND Devout**

1. "A man who was *righteous*": living right with God
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - Our right relationship with God is through Christ!
 - Am I trying to achieve my righteousness by my own work or receive righteousness by grace through faith in Jesus?
2. "A man who was... *devout*": to take hold of what is good
 - the focus here is on the outward response one gives to what they feel is truly worthwhile
 - What am I truly devoting myself to... is it worth while, does it love me back, will it last forever?

B. **Patiently Waiting**

- "waiting for the consolation of Israel"*
1. Waiting is different than procrastination or laziness. It's intentional and active
 2. Waiting always moves us towards God and others

-What am I actively waiting on in prayerful expectancy?

C. **Holy Spirit Working**

- The Holy Spirit was on Simeon, showed Simeon, and led Simeon
1. The Holy Spirit is **DIRECT**
 - vs 25: *"The Holy Spirit was on him"*
 - The Holy Spirit in us directly connects us to the Heavenly Father
 - When we receive Christ it means we not only have the Holy Spirit on us, but in us.
 2. The Holy Spirit is **DIRECTIVE**
 - vs 26: *"it had be revealed to him by the Holy Spirit"*
 - The Holy Spirit speaks truth to us and instructs us
 3. The Holy Spirit is **DIRECTIONAL**
 - vs 27: *"moved by the Spirit"*
 - The Holy Spirit leads us and shows us the way when there is no way

THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES NOT DECEIVE US,
WILL NOT CONFUSE US,
AND CANNOT MISLEAD US.

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective"-James 5:16

A LIFE OF PRAYERFUL EXPECTANCY IS RIGHTEOUS & DEVOUT;
PATIENTLY WAITING & FAITHFULLY MOVED BY THE SPIRIT.

II. An EFFECT: A Life of Prayerful Expectancy Recognizes the Unexpected

- A. A Baby was not what Simeon was looking for,
but it was what God was leading him towards
- B. Prayer is our admission that God's thoughts are greater than our thoughts
and our confession that God's ways are greater than our ways.

A LIFE OF PRAYERFUL EXPECTANCY POSITIONS US
TO RECOGNIZE THE UNEXPECTED WAYS OF GOD

III. A RESULT: A Life of Prayerful Expectancy Results in God Praised and Others Blessed

- A. It Brings Praise to God (vs 28-32)
 - 1. He is Sovereign Lord faithful to His promises!
 - 2. He is the giver of peace and His plan for salvation is for everyone!
- B. It Brings Blessing to Others (vs 33-35)
 - 1. Joseph and Mary Marveled
-they were *"speechless with surprise"* (Message Version)
 - 2. Living in prayerful expectancy doesn't just open our eyes to the work God is doing in us and for us, but also the work he is doing around us and through us...
-In his blessing we bless others

JESUS IS GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION
HE'S A FLOODLIGHT TO OUR DARKNESS
AND A SPOTLIGHT ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS