

**THE FAITH OF CHRISTMAS: PORTRAITS OF FAITH FROM THE CHRISTMAS STORY**  
**Part Four: Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:22-38)**  
**December 26, 2018**

**Simeon's Faith Revealed:**

- **He was \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 22-25).**
  - Both positionally and \_\_\_\_\_ righteous, like Zechariah and Elizabeth.
  - The root of faith showed in the \_\_\_\_\_ of faith in his life.
- **He was \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - Devout = pious, \_\_\_\_\_, God-fearing
  - He was a worshipful man who sought the face of God.
  - Application: Another way faith is revealed is through \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 11:6).
- **He was \_\_\_\_\_ eagerly for Christ's coming.**
  - Vs. 25, "waiting for consolation of Israel" = he was waiting for God to lift Israel out of her darkened state by sending the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - No doubt he had been fervently \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ's coming.
  - Application: Are you praying that same way for Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ coming?
- **He received a special \_\_\_\_\_ from God (vs. 26).**
  - God delights to \_\_\_\_\_ faith (Heb. 11:6).
  - As a reward for His faith, God gave Simeon the greatest \_\_\_\_\_ of his heart.
  - Application: God saves His best "treats" (\_\_\_\_\_) for those who walk by faith.
  - Because Simeon was seeking, praying, and listening to God's voice, He learned something from God that not many other people knew, and he received something from God that not many would have \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Application: One possible reason we sometimes don't \_\_\_\_\_ what God is doing is because we haven't really \_\_\_\_\_ Him or spent the time to hear His still, small voice in the Word and prayer.
- **He was filled and \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit (vs. 27).**
  - Simeon was an Old Testament saint, but we see a picture here of New Testament filling.
    - The Spirit was \_\_\_\_\_ Him (vs. 25).
    - The Spirit was \_\_\_\_\_ to Him (vs. 26; today, through His Word).
    - The Spirit was \_\_\_\_\_ His steps (vs. 27).
  - Application: If we will walk in the Spirit, He will direct our steps even to the point of helping us to be in the right \_\_\_\_\_ at the right time.
- **He \_\_\_\_\_ God for his blessing (vs. 28).**
  - When Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms, his heart overflowed with thankfulness.
  - Question: When you receive a special blessing from God, are you always careful to

\_\_\_\_\_ God for your blessing?

• **He looked forward to Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ work (vs. 29-35).**

- Vs. 30—the baby in his arms was “\_\_\_\_\_” (the Savior).
- Vs. 32—His saving work would include the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Vs. 34—
  - “The fall and rising again of many” = a person’s individual \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus makes all the difference. Some fall on Him to their hurt because of their pride; others \_\_\_\_\_ themselves in repentance and are lifted up.
  - “A sign spoken against” = many Israelites would \_\_\_\_\_ and repudiate Him.
- Vs. 35—
  - “A sword shall pierce thine own soul” = the moment when Mary would stand at the foot of the \_\_\_\_\_ and watch her Son be crucified for the sins of the world.
  - “Thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” = you can’t remain \_\_\_\_\_ about Christ. You will either be for Him or against Him, and the true orientation of your heart will show by the \_\_\_\_\_ (or direction) you take.
- Application: Have you made right \_\_\_\_\_ to come to Him and believe on Him?

**Anna’s Faith Revealed (a very outspoken faith):**

• **She spoke “as the oracles of God” (vs. 36).**

- A prophetess = not that she held the prophetic \_\_\_\_\_, but that God used her to prophesy.
  - She must have loved the Word of God, and devoted herself to it, and been known as a person whose mouth was filled with the \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture.
  - She probably also received special \_\_\_\_\_ from God from time to time.

• **She had \_\_\_\_\_ her life to serving God through prayer and fasting (vs. 36-37).**

- Her faith led her to be very serious about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Prayer was her “\_\_\_\_\_” to God.
  - She maintained her service to a very advanced age.
    - “A widow of about fourscore and four years” = either that she was 84 years old, or that she had been a widow for 84 years, making her over 100.
- Application: We are never too \_\_\_\_\_ to serve God.

• **She was also \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit (vs. 38).**

- It was not a \_\_\_\_\_ that she walked in at just the right moment.

• **She was \_\_\_\_\_ to God for His goodness.**

• **She \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ to others.**

- She went out and told others about what she had seen and heard.
- Application: The good news of Christmas is too \_\_\_\_\_ to keep to ourselves.