

Simeon and Anna: Portraits of Mature Worship



In the Scriptures a story is told of a chance meeting with the newborn Messiah; his parents and two strangers. All we know of Simeon and Anna is written in a few verses of scripture.

Luke chapter 2 verses 22-38

And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present [him] to the Lord;

(As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord ;)

And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name [was] Simeon; and the same man [was] just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this [child] is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

And she [was] a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served [God] with fastings and prayers night and day.

And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

In this chance encounter we get a glimpse of what life was like for the elderly believers.

Even though both Simeon and Anna were older they were still involved in worship.



Many today see their golden years or retirement as “Me time” and envision themselves spending days in some sort of recreation with no responsibility. This account “lines the pockets” of senior living organizations and financial planners; but this is not the life God intended for us.

Throughout scripture, the oldest ones were considered wise and held the responsibility of teaching and imparting skills and wisdom to others. Erik Erikson, a noted developmental psychologist, theorized that one of the stages that is important in our development was Later Adult life called **“Generativity vs. Stagnation”**.

In this stage a person’s elder years were most rewarding when giving back in time and experience imparting wisdom to others and the opposite is stagnation or lack of fulfillment.

Simeon and Anna were not on the proverbial golf course, cruise or RV vacation. They spent their days in the

temple in worship and prayer. As we become older we have so much to offer to younger people in living godly lives, but we can only impart this by staying active and involved in daily church life.

This is not the time to decrease attendance or take a break from coming to services, joining auxiliaries, or participating in church life. Our entire lives are to worship God and the older, mature saint is important to model godliness and show the way for the younger people in our church society.

Yes I said society; living for Christ consists of more than Sunday morning service attendance. We have customs, traditions, knowledge, songs, writings and behaviors which we take part in that help us become more like Christ every day. Simeon and Anna’s walk with God did not start at retirement it started while they were young and strong.

(Ecclesiastes 12:1) Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days] come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

The key to being a vibrant mature worshipper is to model godliness in your youth; grow and develop a prayer and fasting life, and to study the scriptures. These things make it possible to discern or know the voice of God.

Another important thing is to stay active in church. Stay busy, stay involved, and help the young people by being dedicated and supporting the church's activities. Teach them how to find joy in Christ; not in carnal activities that would soon fade away.

Also giving back by teaching and modeling Christ we assure that another generation knows its godly identity.

Teach them the songs we sing, our dress, our worship, our activities. Rehearse for them the work we do in worship; doing missionary work, how to conduct and take part in worship service, how to have programs, how to include God in every aspect of their lives.

Being active for God will fulfill us and then we too can have a chance encounter with the Saviour at a time of His choosing and we won't miss the date.

(Psalms 145:4) One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.



The life of a Saint of God is full and vibrant with new experiences awaiting us as we seek Him and worship.