

Sequim Community Church
"Praying in the New Year"

Luke 2:25-38 • Rev. Rick Dietzman • December 27, 2020

Simeon "was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah." – Luke 2:25-26

Anna "never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child." – Luke 2:27-38

In Israel, to establish a factual statement, two witnesses who were unrelated were needed to validate a truth.

Jesus said "truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." – Matthew 18:19-20

A. Agree with others, knowing that God fulfills his promise

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him. – 1 John 5:14-15

The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you. – Psalm 9:9-10

B. When we seek the LORD, the Holy Spirit leads us

The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. – Romans 8:26

Moved by the Spirit, Simeon went into the temple courts. – Luke 2:27

Simeon said: "My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." – Luke 2:30-32

C. God prepares us to pray and to seek His will

Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. – Luke 2:19.

Simeon said to her, "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." – Luke 2:34-35

D. God works through our motivations, wounds, and sins

Prayer "is born out of a whole environment of felt need. If I say "I ought to pray" I will soon run out of motivation and quit...I have to be driven to pray." Jim Cymbala – Fresh Wind Fresh Fire

Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me. – Psalm 50:15

E. Rely on God's Word as we hope in Him and endure

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. – Romans 15:4

I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your Word. My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises. – Psalm 119:147-148

**For more on prayer, sign up to watch Great Awakenings class
www.sequimcommunitychurch.org/adult-sunday-seminars**