



December 27, 2020
Simeon and Anna
Luke 2:22-38

Think of a time when you had to wait for something. Maybe you are thinking of how you had to wait a while to open your Christmas presents. Even though you had to wait to open your presents, you knew that eventually you would get to open them and that you would enjoy doing that. It gave you something to look forward to. In our lesson for this week, we will learn about two people who waited a long time for God to fulfill a promise He had made. Their names were Simeon and Anna. They had the gift of the Holy Spirit to speak to them and let them know that God had kept His promise to them.

Watch this video to learn more about Simeon and Anna:

<https://youtu.be/leN-xNrkjbo>

Do you know you have the gift of the Holy Spirit like Simeon and Anna did?

Ephesians 1:13-14 says:

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Because you believe in Jesus and have been baptized in His name, you are God's child. This means that God has given you the gift of the Holy Spirit to help you. It also means that all of God's promises in the Bible are true for you. Just as God kept His promise to Simeon and Anna to send a Savior, he has kept that promise to you, too.

Can you imagine if someone gave you a gift and you never opened it? Or, think if you opened the best gift you could imagine, but then you put it away and never used it. God doesn't want this to happen with the gifts He gives you.

2 Timothy 1:6-7 says:

⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

Have you ever been waiting for a really BIG gift at Christmas time or on your birthday? Maybe you opened some smaller, or more practical gifts, like clothes, first. Things like clothes are things we need to make life better here on this earth. But, we know that there is an even BIGGER gift coming.

Just like Simeon and Anna were waiting for the Savior to come, we are waiting for him to come again to take us all to be with him in heaven, the best place, and the best gift, we could ever imagine. We don't know when this will happen. It could happen today or tomorrow, or we may wait our whole lives like Simeon and Anna did, or even longer. But, because Jesus said He would come again, we know it will happen. Like Simeon and Anna rejoiced when they saw baby Jesus, we also will rejoice greatly when we see him face to face.

So, what should we do while we are waiting? Simeon and Anna studied God's Word and tried their best to obey God. They trusted God and waited for him patiently. They had the gift of the Holy Spirit to help them wait and to help them believe that God's promise would come true.

Galatians 5:22-23 tells us about some pretty amazing gifts that God gives us through the Holy Spirit that can help us and others while we are waiting. God wants us to open these gifts and use them to tell other people about the really BIG gift that He has promised to give us, the gift of Jesus and a place with Him in heaven.

Read Galatians 5:22-23 below and find 9 gifts God wants us to use, enjoy, and share with others as we wait on him to come again:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Attached you will find the following "Simeon and Anna" activities:

A Simeon and Anna Coloring Page

A Simeon and Anna Word Search

A Simeon on Anna Coded Message

A Simeon Glasses Template. You can print these on heavy paper, color, cut out and glue on the ears of the glasses, Remember, like Simeon, we have seen the salvation of the Lord as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Someday, we too, will see Jesus with our own eyes.

Prayer:

Dear God,

Help me wait patiently on you. I know that one day I will see Jesus with my own eyes and that I will live forever in heaven with you. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit, who helps me to obey you and trust in your promises until you come again. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.