

Be Ready And Watch

12-24-17

God is moving powerfully in this world. God is moving powerfully all around us. Let us have this Christmas celebration as a reminder to wake us up and **“Be Ready and Watch” for the move of God!** This morning we are going to look at two people who were **“Ready and Watching”** Simeon and Anna!

(Baby Jesus was taken to the Temple to be dedicated to the Lord.)

Luke 2:25–32 (ESV)

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for **the consolation of Israel**, and **the Holy Spirit was upon him**. ²⁶ And **it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit** that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ And **he came in the Spirit into the temple**, and when the parents brought in **the child Jesus**, to do for him **according to the custom of the Law**, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,

according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² **a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”**

Simeon is an interesting fellow. Of all the people around Jesus’ birth, he seems to be the only one who fully grasped who Jesus was.

This is evidence that God does reveal Himself to us before events take place. Therefore we should “Be Ready and Watch”! **We should be spiritually alert to the move of God. With only the OT look at how Simeon was able to recognize the event of his time.**

Luke 2:25 (ESV)

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was **Simeon**, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for **the consolation of Israel**, and **the Holy Spirit** was upon him.

Simeon was looking for the promises of God! As stated here the “consolation of Israel” which refers to the time when, God would end Israel’s time of alienation and suffering through the advent of the Messiah. The time of the “consolation” would also be the age of the promised Holy Spirit, who himself is the one who consoles and encourages.

Simeon was looking and the Spirit was on him because he was looking!

Luke 2:26 (ESV)

And **it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit** that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.

Notice the personal aspect: **Because Simeon was looking, the Spirit revealed to him the move of God.**

Luke 2:27 (ESV)

And **he came in the Spirit into the temple**, and when the parents brought in **the child Jesus**, to do for him **according to the custom of the Law**,

Because Simeon was looking and the Spirit was on him, the Spirit revealed to him the move of God. Now the Spirit led him to the right place at the right time.

Because Simeon was Looking, Ready and Alert, he was able recognize the move of God and could confidently cooperate with what God was doing!

Luke 2:25–32 (ESV)

²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,

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Verse 32 is an OT promise that reveals the all-encompassing ministry of Christ to the whole world highlighting the people of Israel. This Christmas “Be Ready and Watch” because Jesus is revealing Himself all around us!

All Christians should Be Ready and Watch. The Holy Spirit will fill us and guide us. This is what all Christians are supposed to do! Simeon was giving us a vivid picture of how a normal Christian is to behave. We have the Bible and permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit!

Romans 8:14 (ESV)

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

The Holy Spirit brings us to the right time and the right place. Simeon came into the Temple at the right time moved by the Holy Spirit. **The prophetess Anna who was given to continuous prayer also came at the right place at the right time.**

Luke 2:36–38 (ESV)

³⁶ And there was a **prophetess, Anna**, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. **She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.**

³⁸ And **coming up at that very hour** she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for **the redemption of Jerusalem.**

As with Simeon, she came up at the very hour when Jesus was brought into the temple. **She was Ready and Watching. We need to Be Ready and Watching!**

Philippians 4:5 (ESV)

Let your reasonableness (*this is a believer moving in and trusting the mighty invisible Hand of God*) be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand (*this is experiencing the power of the resurrection in the current situation*).

Our reasonableness is due to the fact we trust God's mighty hand is moving in the current situation.

Let this Christmas remind us to Be Ready and Watch!

Luke 12:40 (ESV)

You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

God is going to act suddenly at a time when we would least expect. Therefore be ready and watch for God to act! This leads us to be filled with the Spirit, which will guide us to cooperate with the move of God as HE continually reveals HIMSELF all around us.

Be Ready and Watch, but Never confuse the simplicity of the message!

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.