

**Sermon Topic:** Fire to Endure by Pr Wendy Chiang  
**Sermon Text:** Luke 2:22-25  
**Big Idea:** When your life takes reference from the Holy Spirit, you'll perceive reality differently, pray boldly and get the point of God's plan. You'll have fire to go the distance.

Luke 2:22-25

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"<sup>[a]</sup>), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

**It doesn't matter where you start the race. It matters you end it where you're supposed to be.**

We all have a race of faithfulness to run which takes us a lifetime to complete, this race is long and as we look back at 2017, are we finishing strong? Going forward into 2018, do we have the stamina to go on?

#### **Simeon: A man of endless endurance (Luke 2:25-26)**

Simeon was waiting for the consolation of Israel... it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah

Old or young, all are to wait for God and wait on God. But not all wait well.

Whether it was enjoyment or impatience, Simeon keeps his appointment with God..faithfully.

It is definitely easy to wait on and be a good Christian during times of peace and harmony but for Simeon, it was a time of turmoil not tranquility, yet he keeps living with calmness and joy.

Do we soar in hope or sink in stress? Desirable to have faith to endure like Simeon. (Luke 2:25-27) Simeon was a Spirit-led man who took reference from the Holy Spirit in his daily actions. As a result, he

1. Perceives reality differently (Luke 2:30-32)
2. Prays boldly (Luke 2:29)
3. Gets the point of God's plan (Luke 2:34-35)

**Perceives reality differently** (Luke 2:30-32) – Simeon saw beyond Christmas, he saw a savior for both Jews and Gentiles. This was made possible with the power of the Holy Spirit. God is bigger than our current reality.

**Prays boldly** (Luke 2:29) – Simeon fully understands that God will fulfill His promise and we should start praying according to His Word and saturate our minds. The Word will enable us from being confused and frightened by the chaos in the world.

**Gets the point of God's plan** (Luke 2:34-35) When the Holy Spirit spoke to Simeon and he got the point. The plan of God is redemptive even when it is painful, but do we get it? Do we get the plan that God has for us in our lives?

### **What about us as followers as Jesus Christ?**

The Holy Spirit has come at Pentecost and Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to every believer that comes before God. The Holy Spirit anoints us to give us the divine life; He seals us for Heaven and fills us up so that we can get more of the love of God, more victory over sin and more power for service.

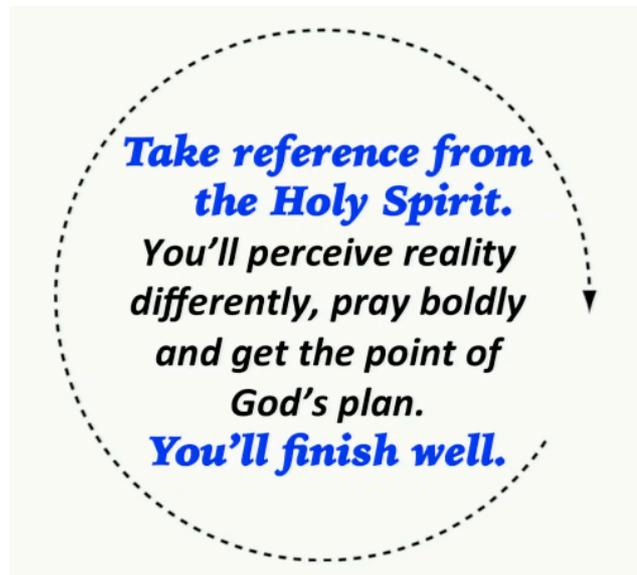
### **Are we plugged in?**

The Holy Spirit is the POWER SOURCE and if we are not plugged into the Holy Spirit, our lives lack power and leak joy. We need to check if we are living by our own terms and if so, we require a paradigm shift. We should not resist the voice of our Lord.

*“Without the Spirit of God we can do nothing; we are as ships without wind, or chariots without steeds; like branches without sap, we are withered; like coals without fire, we are useless; as an offering without the sacrificial flame, we are unaccepted.”*

-Charles Spurgeon-

God knows that there will be days that our faith will run dry and we try to rely on our own wisdom. God knows the cycle of your faith so it is crucial to remember that we are not forsaken. He promises to see you through difficult times.



As we prepare to enter 2018:

1. What areas in your life leak hope and prevent you from persevering in faith? Which occurrence in your life needs a fresh perspective? Bring them before God in honest conversation.
2. Look at the praise and prayer of Simeon. What can change in your struggles if Christ is your salvation and light?
3. How can you follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit more faithfully? What prevents you from walking in His counsel in your family life or work scope fully?