

Luke 2:25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

And behold there was a man in Nanyuki whose name was .... How would you like Your name to be there? Recorded for a remembrance. A noteworthy name. **What did Simeon do what made His life noteworthy?**

**Our Subject today is 4 Qualities of an outstanding Christian.** Qualities Simeon had- He was **Just** and **devout** and **waiting for the consolation of Israel** and the **Holy Spirit was upon Him.**

This was a time in the History of Israel when the true faith of Abraham was at a very low point. The Pharisees and seduces had spoiled it by mixing their man-made doctrines in. **The once brightness of the truth had now become dull and dim.** It had been reduced to outward worship going through the motions – yes coming to the temple to worship, but hearts were far from God. It was a duty not a desire. A chore or a task not a source of pleasure. Even although most had become cold and hard hearted, the words draw our attention to this one man. **“And behold.”** Look here, here is something you need to see, something out of the ordinary. Look and see and take note. Even in the midst of terrible decline it’s encouraging to know God always has his true ones. That no matter how dark it is, they are not snuffed out. **They shine brightly.** If you think about it the darker it is the brighter the light appears. But here was a man that was so bright he would shine in future generations and provide a pattern worthy of following. **The true Church may be scattered,** and may be **just few in number,** but it is **never put out** – God is building His Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. God has always had a little flock through even the very worst times. There was a **Lot in Sodom**- and an **Obadiah in Ahab’s household**,- a **Daniel in Babylon** - and a **Jeremiah in Zedekiah’s court**; and in the last days of the Jewish Church, when its iniquity was almost full, **there were godly people, like Simeon,** even in Jerusalem. **He has even today his very own ones in Nanyuki.** In Kenya. We shall see how to recognize them.

This morning, we shall look at what made Simeon noteworthy and see if these qualities can be ours as well. Our headings are just according to **verse 25.** and

this man **was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.**

**Let's just note a quality Simeon had that only a true believer can have.** We see in the song of Simeon *how completely a believer can be delivered from the fear of death*; "Lord," says Simeon, "now let your servant depart in peace." He speaks like one for whom the grave has lost its terrors, and the world its attraction. He to be allowed to go home. He is willing to be "absent from the body and present with the Lord." He speaks as one who knows where he is going when he departs this life, and cares not how soon he goes. **He seeks those things above.** To Him they are more precious by far. The things of the earth are just empty and passing away. But Eternity is forever, and He knows that. The true Christian knows that as well...

**What enabled Simeon to talk like this** and it was not just talk He really believed it, it was from His heart. **What delivered Him so completely from the fear of death?** There is only one answer Faith, Faith laying firm hold on an unseen Savior, —faith resting on the promises of an unseen God, — Simeon had a clear view of Christ Jesus, even before the Gospel was preached. We see Simeon speaking of Jesus as "**the salvation which God had prepared,**"—as "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of his people Israel."

The Light He saw as He held the babe Jesus, Brought Light to His life.

**1. And this man was Just,** "Just"— that is his character before men. He was "just." Was he a father? *He did not provoke his children to anger, lest they should be discouraged.* Was he a master? *He gave unto his servants that which was just and equal, knowing that he also had his Master in Heaven.* Was he a merchant? *He deceived in no sale, but did all things honest in the sight of all men, he honored God in his common business habits.* Was he a servant? *Then he did not render eye-service, as a man-pleaser, but in singleness of heart he served the Lord.*

How could any man be just? **For to be Just also means righteous.** innocent, faultless, guiltless. It means approved by God. The title Just is used of him whose way of thinking, feeling, and acting is wholly conformed to the will of God. **There is only one way to be approved and acceptable to God.** And that is By Christ Jesus. **Without a doubt Simeon was clearly saved, he was a converted person,** forgiven by God, justified by repentance of his sin, and by his

**wholehearted belief that God would send a Saviour who would bear away the punishment of sin.** Simeon was counted righteous; righteousness was imputed unto Him. Christ's Righteousness given. Just as if He had never sinned.

The two-fold response to what the Lord God has done for us, is **Repent and Believe**. This is our response to the Light from heaven. Repent turn from and turn to. Turn from darkness and turn to light. Turn from the power of Satan to the power of God. We respond by turning - And we believe like Abraham believed. Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. **That is the first mark of a true believer.**

Jesus **preached the Gospel of the kingdom**. He preached the great truth the **Kingdom is at hand**. He preached **our duty or response to the coming Kingdom** was to **repent and to believe**. Nothing else could save us, nothing else could make us fit for this Eternal Kingdom. Only - *repentance towards God*, and *faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ*. These two components must go together, we can't just say I believe in God and stay in our old ways, we do not just trust in His grace and believe **without our old ways and old hearts being renewed**. Christ joined these two together. Repent and believe.

**2. But He was Devout.** the commentator Matthew Henry says, That he was *just* and *devout*, **just towards men** and **devout towards God**; these two must always go together, and each will support the other, **but neither** will make up for the defect or lack of the other.

**He was DEVOUT.** That means He firmly held on to the Faith, firmly held on to the Lord's ways and religious duties. He did not stay at home but made a difficult pilgrimage. A devout man or woman desires to go to the house of the Lord no matter how difficult it is. The DEVOUT **give their all**, to God's Work, do we have an avenue of service for the Lord? Or is there nothing for him? This is what devout means. We should be **diligent in worship**, in prayer, in the study of God's Word, and in his service. Diligent in the advance of His Kingdom.

In Acts 8 we see **that devout men** buried and lamented over Stephan the first martyr. They would have been in danger of great trouble by burying Stephen. The wicked authorities would have taken note. **But they were more concerned being Loyal to God's departed servant than staying out of danger**. These devout men were willing to pay a price. They were willing to go the second mile for the

Lord. Do we display this quality? what a quality to possess to be known as one who is devout. Devoted committed dedicated. Hot and not cold, Hot and not Lukewarm.

Perhaps a believer worships God once a week, only hears the word of God once a week. Some believers do not get involved in any other church program. Some Don't really care about the lost souls all around Him. Some never witnesses to them, never thinks of praying for them. Some never thinks of inviting them to an evangelistic gospel service.- (*which we are soon to start on a regular basis*). In all honesty we may say of them they are not very Devout. All week, they give only little thought to spiritual matters. Doesn't pray, doesn't give thanks, doesn't read His bible. Doesn't listen to any preaching on their phone.

The devout are diligent. **Constant effort to draw nearer to God.** Hunger for spiritual things. A burning desire for the Lost to be saved. **That is a devout man.** Loyal to the Lord. A hand put to the plough, a son that never sleeps in the harvest. Diligent in Gods service. Diligent in prayer, doesn't just pray short prayers for their own needs. **But has a special time of prayer** where they spend time in Adoration and Thanksgiving and intercession for others. A devout person Loves the House of the Lord. **Loves personal devotions**, Is diligent in these matters. Simeon was a Just and a Devout man. **What an example to us.** Looking for the consolation of Israel, Simeon showed the truth of his faithfulness and devotion, that he believed and waited for the coming of Christ; he had a true belief of the Messiah promised, he believed that he should come, had faith, and he waited for his coming.

### 3. waiting for the Consolation of Israel,

Simeon looked forward for the comforter to come to Zion. His first coming **But we look forward to the Second coming.** We live and conduct our lives **expectant that He is really coming.** If you knew our Lord would return tomorrow - How would you behave today? Would you not give maximum effort to winning the Lost, To praying for them, If there were a besetting sin in you life would you not go to the Lord in prayer and repentance. The truth of the Matter is that our Lord is coming back.

When Simeon saw the Baby Christ He took Him in His arms and embraced Him with the greatest affection. Here was Gods Gift which would satisfy His deepest

thirst, here was the fountain of life opened up - **Do we embrace with the greatest affection that Christ is coming again** that we shall be with Him forever. – some say not yet Lord, don't come just now, I have things I want to do- Not Simeon He said, 'My eyes have seen, now let me depart in peace.' That doesn't mean He died soon afterwards. We don't have the record. But There is an Eternal Kingdom far more glorious than anything that this world can offer. The best of this world is but nothing compared to the **Eternal Kingdom**. I'm waiting for, I'm living for , It's my all and my joy and my reason for living.

**how does this affect Christian living?** It means that everything we do has the priority of the last great day **when Christ will come** to bring this present phase of the world's existence to an end. I give myself unto Him – A living sacrifice.

#### 4. 'The Holy Ghost was upon him'

The Holy Ghost was upon Him, His steps were ordered and guided, or He was yielded to the guidance of the Holy Ghost. He Came into the Temple at just the right time to see with His own eyes the babe the Lord Jesus Christ. It had been revealed to Him, by the Holy Ghost that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord Christ. **It was the Spirit of Prophecy**. Similar to that of Elizabeth - *Luke 1: 41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!*

Simon Said (Luke 2:28). He took Him in his arms and He blessed Him and said. – now you are letting **your servant depart in peace** according to your word. **For my eyes have seen your salvation.**

Oh, It takes a move of the Holy Spirit to open eyes to see Gods Salvation. It takes a move of the Holy Ghost to give one such assurance, and faith in the eternal promises that they have no fear of death. Unless The Holy spirit grants understanding – the Gospel message is not believed, it is not treasured and valued and trusted. **His ministries are so vast**. The Holy Spirit grants FAITH to lay hold of an unseen saviour. He gives faith to rest upon the promises of an unseen God. He gives faith in our hearts that we can look death in the face and say, '*oh death where your sting.*'

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit is so vast So Crucial, We as Gods Children ought to be led by the Spirit . That involves asking – not just assuming that I can manage without His help. I ask for protection even when taking a journey I'm

used to taking. I ask for wisdom for my daily business affairs. I ask for help against temptation and besetting sins that seem to always get the better of me... I ask for understanding of His Holy Word, I ask that I would be obedient to His commands.

Someone full of the Holy Spirit has LIVING WATER flowing from their lives.

*John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. .... This spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive*

Here we read what happens when the Holy Spirit is upon us. From within us, from our heart, comes a renewed interest and care for people around us. We find that God enables us to be a helper and messenger to others, showing them Christ. We become much more wholesome husbands and wives, parents and friends, out of whom flow rivers of love, comfort, kindness and encouragement. To crown all, we become beacons of spiritual light and life. When we are full of the Holy Spirit these and many more are the evidences of the Holy Spirit being upon us.

Will we be devout, faithful, loyal and diligent in the duties of the Christian life: in worship, in reading of the Word, and in prayer every day? Will we be those who are waiting, and living for the coming of Christ, as the supreme goal of life? Will we be those who do nothing without bearing in mind that our purpose is to bring glory to Christ, looking for that great day?

*1 Thessalonians 1:3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father.* The Apostle comments on these believers.... He has great confidence in them and speaks of them very positively. Their character was such that he felt sure that he saw the mark of God's elect about them. There was **the work of faith, the labour of love, and the patience of hope**; (your unwaivering Expectation – your steadfastness). and here we see three works of the Spirit, we may be fully persuaded, and sure that electing love is there. These Three Cardinal graces faith, Love and Hope are evidence the Holy Spirit is in your life.

Will the Holy Spirit be upon us? because we are open, and have decided to yield to him, concerned and careful to be unselfish, awake and active people, who speak Gods words and witness for Christ? **These things are our aim.** May each of us in these ways be a Simeon, JUST DEVOUT WAITING for the consolation of Israel, and \Full of the Holy Spirit.

Four Qualities of an outstanding Christian.

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in the time ahead, in the new year, and may the Lord help us to make this our goal and focus. AMEN