

Waiting for the Hope of Heaven

Luke 2:25-35

Introduction

All of the great spiritual leaders of the Bible have at least one thing in common; They not only heard the call of God, they said YES to God! They were not just hearers of the Word they were hearers and doers. They personally got involved with their faith in God.

Focus on becoming _____ to God, and develop a habit of obedience and service to God's Word. When you do, you will find that God is able to reveal himself more fully to you.

In Chapter 2 of Luke's gospel we find an example of the kind of obedience, patience and faithfulness God uses to _____ people to do great things.

Simeon was _____ for the hope of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

"When the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation Which You have prepared before the face of _____ peoples, A light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel." (Luke 2:26-32 NKJV)

Joseph and His mother _____ at those things which were spoken of Him.

Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this *Child* is _____ for the fall and rising of many in Israel.

I. God Calls Us to Obedience

God calls us to be _____ followers!

One of the Jewish laws was that all male babies were to be circumcised on the _____ day.

According to the law of Moses, purification from childbirth for Mary would occur 40 days after Jesus' birth. That would be followed by the consecration of the _____, in recognition that the firstborn son belonged to the Lord.

Verse 21 says, "On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named _____, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived." (2:21)

The Jewish ceremony of circumcision on the eighth day after birth represented the sign of the Abrahamic Covenant upon each male child who then became part of the _____ of Israel.

At his circumcision, Jesus name was entered into the Jewish _____ at the temple in Jerusalem.

Joseph did for Jesus as his _____ son!

The name "Jesus" or in Hebrew *Yeshua* means "_____."

Mary accompanies Joseph to the temple for the final two ceremonies of Mary's _____ and the presentation of her firstborn.

Mary and Joseph were considered to be at the _____ level, so Mary brings a pair young pigeons or doves as her sacrifice -- that was all they could afford.

Mary and Joseph didn't let being poor get in the way of their obedience and _____ to God. Not having much money should never be an excuse for being disobedient to God.

Every firstborn male belongs to God. Firstborn animals were _____ to God.

However, in the Old Testament, Yahweh was very clear that he abhorred the child sacrifice practiced by the surrounding pagan nations and religions. So, "The Lord said to Moses, 'I have taken the Levites from among the Israelites in place of the first male offspring of every Israelite woman.'"

The price to redeem the firstborn of non-Levites was _____ shekels.

Mary and Joseph were devout in their faith and _____ Jesus according to God's Word.

II. God Calls Us to Faithfulness

In verse 25 we learn that God calls us to _____.

We learn several significant things about Simeon:

- He is "righteous" (NIV) or "just" (KJV) which means Simeon was a man of high standards. He was upright, just and fair."
- He is "devout," He was God-fearing, pious, and reverent."
- And the Holy _____ rested upon him.

Simeon was waiting for the Holy Spirit's _____.

Simeon was eagerly looking forward to the time when an occupied, weary Jerusalem would receive comfort and relief from their _____. The devout people of faith believed this would be brought about by the coming of the Messiah.

Then Simeon blessed them and tells Mary four things:

- How people respond to Jesus and his message will determine their destiny.
- Jesus is God's sign of hope for the world, but will be rejected and slandered by many.
- The opinions and thoughts people have of Jesus reveal what they truly believe about _____.
- Mary will experience the deep anguish of soul when Jesus is rejected and crucified.

According to the scriptures, we are supposed to be waiting for and _____ the Second Coming of Christ.

If you live your life believing that Jesus could come today, or tomorrow it causes us to live with the right _____.

In the book of Revelation Jesus tells the church at Smyrna, "Be faithful even unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." That is the blessed _____ of the church.

Conclusion

Abound in Hope	Romans 15:13
Labor in Hope	1 Corinthians 9:10
_____ in Hope	Acts 2:26
Rejoice in Hope	Romans 5:2

Be obedient and faithful to God and put your hope in Him and you will see His salvation!