

Sermon Outlines

Simeon

*“This man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Spirit was upon him.”
Luke 2:25 (R.V.)*

There are few more interesting subjects for study than the group of choice souls associated with our Lord's birth and early days - Zachariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, Simeon, Anna. Of each something commendatory and distinctive is said, indicating the reality of his or her life and relation to God. Here Simeon illustrates the marks of the true Christian experience.

I. The Elements of a True Life.

1. In relation to the past - “righteous”

- a. Sin forgiven and covered.
- b. Guilt removed for ever.
- c. Acceptance with God assured.

2. In relation to the present - “devout”

- a. The saved sinner as a worshipper.
- b. A true attitude to an almighty, gracious God.
- c. Dependence - Delight - Demonstration.

3. In relation to the future - “looking for the consolation of Israel”

- a. The forward look of hope.
- b. Not to death but to Christ's coming (v. 26) - so we to His Second Advent.
- c. To look forward thus was “consolation,” not dread - so we now.

II. The secret of a True Life - “the Holy Spirit was upon him”

1. The Spirit brings the soul to Christ (v. 27) who is our salvation (v. 30), and applies His righteousness (1 Tim. 3:16).
2. The Spirit makes us truly devout and inspires our devotion (v. 28), sonship (Gal. 4:6), and holiness (2 Thess. 2:13).
3. The Spirit inspires our hope by glorifying Christ (v. 32) and bringing His words to our remembrance (John 14:26).

Therefore all is by the Holy Spirit, in Him, and through Him.

Conclusion

1. The True Christian Life

- a. Means of its commencement - faith
- b. Secret of its retention - love.
- c. Anticipation of its fulfilment - hope.

2. The Holy Spirit

- a. Rests on the soul in conversion.
- b. Reveals to the mind in consecration.
- c. Replenishes the life in anticipation.

. . . . W.H. Griffith Thomas, D.D.