Sisters and Brothers, let us worship night and day.

<u>Covenant Life</u>

- Our next prayer meeting is a week from today on Sunday February 9th at 3pm. Children and Youth ministries plan to meet.
- Upcoming events our community is invited to participate in together:
 - Annual NAN Conference will be February 20-22 in Augusta, GA. Theme is Covenant Community, and several community members are attending. For more information or to register, please contact me at <u>moderator@GodsDelight.org</u>
 - North Texas Men's Conference will be March 1 from 7:30am-3:30pm at St Elizabeth Catholic Church in Keller TX. Early Bird tickets are \$55: <u>here</u>. Contact Chris Coxon for more Information. CCGD attendees plan to wear our Community shirts and sit together.
- <u>GodsDelight.org</u> has prayer meeting <u>audio</u>, <u>summaries</u>, <u>transcripts</u>, and <u>teachings</u>.
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please enter your 2025 Promise <u>here</u>, donate online <u>here</u>, or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, TX 75222.

Reflection

The <u>Gospel</u> today is about the Presentation of the Lord. It contains one of my favorite stories about a heroine. Bear with me if you have heard me share this story before.

The Presentation of the Lord brings to life two very special witnesses who were witnesses for very different reasons. The first was Simeon.

It was said of Simeon that he was righteous, devout, and that the Holy Spirit was upon him. Proof of the Holy Spirit's presence was the fact that scripture states that it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. Also, <u>by the Spirit</u>, Simeon came into the temple just as Joseph and Mary brought the baby Jesus into the temple.

Simeon became a first witness to the Presentation of baby Jesus because he was righteous, devout, and filled with the Holy Spirit.

The other named witness was a prophetess, Anna. Scripture states that she never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. Because she was already in the temple, she too was a first witness to the Presentation of baby Jesus.

As a young adult growing up in Community, I looked around our prayer meetings and conferences, retreats, and service projects and I saw many "Simeons"...many men and women who were righteous, devout, and filled with the Holy Spirit! Although I was very inspired by their example, I never believed that I would ever be such a person. I decided that it was a 'safer path' to try and follow the example of Anna. I am not the fasting warrior that Mike Miesch and others are, but I can try again and again to worship night and day, fasting, and praying. Rather than trying to have perfect timing, my goal was to be diligent so as to not miss whatever it is that God has in store.

Sisters and Brothers, I thank God for all those who have gone before us. The Simeons and Annas in our history who have fought the good fight and showed the way for another generation to see what it is like to be righteous, to be devout, to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to worship night and day, to fast, and to pray. We are so blessed to have such a cloud of witnesses.

What is God asking of me today to respond to the witness of Simeon and Anna? May we never tire of setting the example for a new generation.

Let us pray, "Lord God, thank You for the call You have placed upon my life. I thank You for sending so many examples of how to follow You. Please give me the outpouring of Your Holy Spirit that I will be where You want me, when You want me, to witness You and Your power at work. I desire to live a righteous life, to be devoted to You, to worship You night and day with fasting and prayer. Help me to always say yes. I love You Jesus! Amen."

God Bless,

David