



December 21

Grandpa Simeon

(Another who obeyed)

Reading: Luke 2:25-35

*"My eyes have seen Your salvation
which You have prepared in the sight of all peoples" (Lk 2:30,31)*

The players in the Christmas drama are of diverse background—young and old, rich and poor, wise and simple. Luke introduces Simeon simply as "a man in Jerusalem" (Lk 2:25). He was righteous, devout and Spirit-filled, awaiting the arrival of Messiah. The Holy Spirit is mentioned thrice in the three verses which tell us about him. The Holy Spirit was *upon* him... The Holy Spirit had *revealed* to him... The Holy Spirit *led* him (vv 25,26,27).

Simeon had come to the temple so often. But this was an unique moment. The timing was orchestrated by the Holy Spirit. That was exactly when Mary and Joseph had brought the Child Jesus into the Temple. If Simeon had belittled the gentle prompting of the Holy Spirit, he would have missed what he had been waiting for all those years.

We normally divide our affairs as major and minor. This of course is legitimate. But we should not think that obedience to God in major issues of life is more important than following His guidance in simple matters. What we may consider a trivial matter today may ultimately affect our life as a crucial factor. As children of God we must constantly be led by His Spirit in order that we may please our heavenly Father in everything. A rocket that is deviated by a fraction of a degree at the launching point will miss the target by million miles. For the Kingdom people, nothing is too small a matter to trifle with.

Simeon's life had been characterised by genial guidance not only from the Holy Spirit but also from the Holy Scriptures. With the Baby Jesus in his arms he blessed God and said, "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, *according to Your Word*" (Lk 2:28,29). The inscribed Word of the Scriptures and the inspired voice of the Spirit are like the two eyes of God or His two lips with which He directs our path. One complements the other and never contradicts. Forgetting this, many have fancied themselves into awry guidance and spurious experiences.

*Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,*

*Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear:
Come and worship! Worship Christ, the newborn King!*

(James Montgomery, 1771-1854)
