

Ensure fellowship with God through 1 John 1:9

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Luke 2:27-40

(27) And he (Simeon) came in the Spirit into the temple (“came into the temple by means of the Spirit”);

- God the Holy Spirit enabled Simeon to be at the right place at the right time.
- To see something very special; something he had longed to see for many years.

...and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law (reference the redemption of the 1st born),

(28) then he (Simeon) took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,

(29) "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace (Simeon now knows his death is imminent), According to Your word;

(30) For my eyes have seen Your salvation (as he looks at this eight week old baby, our Savior, Jesus Christ), - - Simeon indicates that he has seen God’s salvation or deliverance.

- God the Holy Spirit had previously revealed to Simeon that he would not die until he saw the promised Messiah.
- Simeon arrives at the right place and at the right time, by means of the Spirit, to see the promised descendent of David – the Messiah and the Lord’s salvation.

(31) Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

(32) A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel."

(33) And His father and mother were **amazed** at the things which were being said about Him.

“Amazed” - θαυμάζω

THAUMAZO – “To be amazed, to wonder,
To be astonished, to admire, to have intense
interest in something”

- **The fact that Luke could communicate what Joseph and Mary were thinking is a tribute to verbal plenary inspiration.**

(34) And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed (Christ would be rejected!)
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(35) and a sword will pierce even your own soul (a Thracian broad sword would pierce her soul) --to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

Remember Mary had remained at Elizabeth’s house for three months – conversing about the things that had been communicated to them. The wonder in the relationship that they all had was based on faith applied to the revealed message of God.

So it is that the wonderful relationships WE have with fellow-believers are all based on our faith applied to God’s message – the infallible Word of God (Bible Doctrine).

(36) And there was a **prophetess**...

“**Prophetess**” - προφήτις

PROPHETIS - “One who speaks in the name of God and who declares the will of God”

...**Anna** the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher (a Galilean)...

“Anna” - Ἄννα

HANNA

Other prophetesses –

- Miriam, the sister of Moses - Ex 15:20
- Deborah - Judges 4:4
- Huldah – 2 Chron. 34:22

...She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,

Acts 2:17

(17) 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; in fulfillment of Joel 2:28-32

See also Acts 21:9

1 Cor. 11:5 – Paul issues protocol on this matter for the pre-canon era of the Church Age.

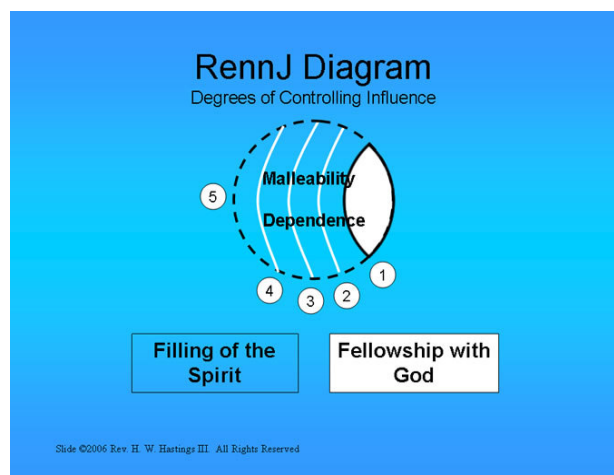
“**Marriage**” - παρθενία

PARTHENIA – “*Virginity*”

Correctly translated as - “...lived with her husband seven years after the loss of her virginity.”

(37) and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four...

- This is a woman who is dedicated to doing all that God wants her to do.
- As we have been studying – she is a person analogous to functioning at BAR 5 of the RennJ Diagram.



- She is being used as a wonderful vessel of prayer.

And what is she praying for? She was praying for the same thing that Simeon was looking for – the consolation of Israel; Israel’s deliverance.
She was praying for the coming Messiah.

And God honors her faith and her dedication to serving Him.

She is able to see the promised Messiah just as Simeon.

...She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.

- “Fastings and prayers” indicates her intensity of service. She would not let things distract her from doing what she knew she should be doing.
- Emphasis on prayer – a wonderful example of importunate prayer. Eighty-four years of praying for Israel’s deliverance.

GOD’S WILL FOR THE WIDOW –

1. Optimal for a widow to not remarry – **1 Cor 7:8**
2. Purpose of the widow not remarrying is to dedicate herself to the service of the Lord following the example of Christ’s sacrificial life – **1 Tim 5:5**
3. The death of a spouse releases one from the bond of marriage and carries with it a right to remarry – **Rom 7:2-3**
4. For the widow who does not possess self-control (sexual passion) it is better to exercise the right of remarriage – **1 Cor 7:9** (Why? Because she has unfulfilled desires)
5. Remarriage for the younger widow is not contrary to the will of God (young widow often being one without children) – **1 Cor 7:9 cp. 1 Tim 5:14**
6. It is recommended for the younger widow to return to her parents authority – **1 Tim 4:4**

Some discernment is required at this point –

- Are parents positive toward Bible Doctrine?
- Age & Circumstances
- May be a necessity if you need their support.
- Or God may direct somewhere else...

7. This provides protection and support through the father’s authority and a period of time to heal from her residual memory of dependence upon the deceased husband –
8. The minimal time for healing from dependence upon a husband (applies to both divorce and death) is year and half plus one month for each year beyond three years of marriage –
9. The requirements for church support of a widow are 60 years of age, no remarriage and consistent execution of her believer priesthood responsibilities in a local church – **1 Tim 5:9-10**
10. God commands all widows be treated with respect and dignity – **1 Tim 5:3**

(38) At that **very moment...**

- Ceremony of the redemption of the first born – she hears Simeon pronouncing the blessing and prophesying.
- She is at the right place – at the right time. Doing all that God wanted her to do!

...she came up and began **giving thanks to God...**

- A result of her faith applied to the message of God that came through Simeon.
- She believed the prophesy that Simeon spoke!

... and continued to **speak of Him** (Messiah) to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

- She becomes a wonderful ambassador for Christ.
- Faith + Bible Doctrine = Talking about God to others.

(39) When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.

(40) The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Reading from: *The Christ of the Gospels*, J. W. Shepherd

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.