

LESSONS
FROM

Anna,

THE
PROPHETESS

“And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity.

And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

*And she coming in at that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all that looked for redemption in Jerusalem”-
Luke 2:36-38.*

I. Some things about Anna

A. She was a prophetess (an inspired, female teacher)-v. 36

B. A virgin when she married-v. 36

C. Was married 7 years to her husband-v. 36

D. Departed not from the temple-v. 37

E. Served God with fastings and prayers night and day-v. 37

F. Gave thanks to God-v. 38

G. Spoke of Christ to all that looked for redemption in Jerusalem-v. 38

II. Lessons we can learn from Anna

A. "Old Folks" should continue serving God!

1. Moses was trained of God for 80 years before he was ready to be the leader of God's people for the last 40 years of his life!

2. Caleb was 85 years of age when he took on the monumental task of driving the Anakims out of the land of Canaan-see Joshua 14:6-15.

3. Question: If Jesus had lived to be a hundred years old, could we envision Him ceasing His teaching ministry?

4. Brethren, God has a vital place for men and women who have grey and silver hair!

Don't stop serving God because of "old age!"

B. Anna did not use the early loss of her husband as a reason to harden her heart against God!

"Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness.

So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God.

But exhorting one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.

While it is said To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation”-Hebrews 3:8, 11-15.

Question: How many brethren have you known who stopped their service to God because of some tragedy in their life?

God will not accept such puny excuses!

God's people need to urgently press forward in their service to God, like Anna-even in the face of great losses/difficulties!!

C. Anna lived an exemplary life from her youth through "old age!"

That's seen from the fact that she was a virgin when she married, and in her "great age" she was still steadfastly devoted to the Lord!

Question: How many virgins do we have in America today? Apparently, not very many!

"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not once be named among you, as becometh saints"-Ephesians 5:3.

Its encouraging to see someone obey the gospel when they are old; but what's really impressive is to be able to see faithfulness in a person's life from their youth until they are old!!

D. Thanksgiving was a practice in Anna's life!

"For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me"
-Psalm 40:12.

"Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered"-Psalm 40:5.

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you"
-I Thessalonians 5:18.

“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice”-Philippians 4:4.

How much do we think this statement meant to the brothers in Philippi?

Remember, Paul was a prisoner in Rome uncertain of whether he would live, or die!

E. Prayers were surely a key to the great spiritual success achieved by Anna!

She served God night and day with prayers and fasting-v. 37.

“Pray without ceasing”-I Thessalonians 5:17.

Question, If prayers were so important to the sinless Lord; how much more important are they to Christians of today?

III. SUMMARY OF THE LESSON

A. God's people need to serve as long as possible!

B. Christians should never harden their hearts against God because of tragedies and difficulties!

C. The best possible scenario in life is to become a Christian early and remain steadfast to the Lord until death!

D. Thanksgiving should be a practice in a Christian's life!

E. Prayers are essential to a successful Christian life!