
25 At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him 26 and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 27 That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, 28 Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, 29 “Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. 30 I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people. 31 He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!” 33 Jesus’ parents were amazed at what was being said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby’s mother, “This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, but he will be a joy to many others. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. 35 As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul.”

1. What does it mean to become cynical?
2. Describe the temptation of becoming cynical and how you keep your heart from becoming cold as you grow older?
3. Discuss how hope drives cynicism away.
4. Simeon was a righteous man. What makes a person righteous?
5. Simeon was a devout man. How does devotion to a big cause increase hope?
6. Simeon “eagerly waited” for the Messiah. How does one stay enthusiastic over a long period of waiting? Describe a period of extended waiting in your life and the effect it had on you?
7. Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in Simeon’s life?
8. How did Simeon know the baby Jesus was the promised Messiah?
9. What does it mean to die in peace?