

# Wednesday with the Word

## Wheat Street Baptist Church

Teacher: Servant Pastor, Ralph Basui Watkins

### Standing on the Promises of God: What Has God Promised? Luke 2:21 - Luke 2:38

#### Luke 2:21 - The Occasion

**21** Eight days later Jesus' parents did for him what the Law of Moses commands. And they named him Jesus, just as the angel had told Mary when he promised she would have a baby (see Luke 1:26-38).

What God says God will do, God will do. The questions for us are:

1. Can we hear and see the promises of God?
2. Do we believe the promises of God?
3. What has God said to you about you (God promises for you)?
4. What has God shown us and said to us about the future of Wheat Street (God's promises for Wheat Street)?
5. What has God promised?

What God promises isn't all a bed of roses. There are ups and downs, bends and twist, good times and bad times, and the struggle is holding on to the promise in the midst of the mess of the promise coming to pass.

What are you trying to hold onto, that God has promised, in the midst of the "in-between" times?

It is when we acknowledge the promise and the twist and turns it takes between promise and the promise being fulfilled that we find the faith to hold on in the midst of the journey.

#### Luke 2:22-28 - Part #1: The Elders See Something in the Children: We Are Called to Call Out and Develop What We See

**22** The time came for Mary and Joseph to do what the Law of Moses says a mother is supposed to do after her baby is born.

They took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem and presented him to the Lord, **23** just as the Law of the Lord says, "Each first-born baby boy belongs to the Lord." **24** The Law of the Lord also says that parents have to offer a sacrifice, giving at least a pair of doves or two young pigeons. So that is what Mary and Joseph did.

**25** At this time a man named Simeon was living in Jerusalem. Simeon was a good man. He loved God and was waiting for God to save the people of Israel. God's Spirit came to him **26** and told him that he would not die until he had seen Christ the Lord.

**27** When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to do what the Law of Moses says should be done for a new baby, the Spirit told Simeon to go into the temple.

**28** Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms and praised God,

### **Luke 2:28-35 Part#2: Call Out What We See: Save the Children**

**28** Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms and praised God,

**29**

“Lord, I am your servant,  
and now I can die in peace,  
because you have kept  
your promise to me.

**30**

With my own eyes I have seen  
what you have done  
to save your people. (he is speaking in past tense)

**31**

and foreign nations  
will also see this.

**32**

Your mighty power is a light  
for all nations,  
and it will bring honor  
to your people Israel.”

**33** Jesus' parents were surprised at what Simeon had said. **34** Then he blessed them and told Mary, “This child of yours will cause many people in Israel to fall and others to stand. The child will be like a warning sign. Many people will reject him, **35** and you, Mary, will suffer as though you had been stabbed by a dagger. But all this will show what people are really thinking.”

God had fulfilled God's promise to Simeon.

Simeon goes own share with Mary what it means to used by God. When you are called to do great things for God (Wheat Street) people will reject you, hate on you, talk about you, turn on you, stab you in the back but the key here is knowing what God has promised and what God has called you to do and what God has called us to be. People will gossip and many will not be with what God is doing that why it is so important for you to know what God has promised.

It is only when you *know and believe what God has promised* that you will be able to endure what you have to go through with God and for God to be a part of the fulfillment of the promise (***You will know you believe it by how you live into it. What you do is evidence of what you believe***). It isn't going to be easy but know this:

### **Hebrews 13:5-6**

**5** Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." **6** So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone (man) do to me?"

### **Luke 2:36-38: The Power of the Women in the Temple: You Are The KEY!**

**36** The prophet Anna was also there in the temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. In her youth she had been married for seven years, but her husband died. **37** And now she was eighty-four years old. Night and day she served God in the temple by praying and often going without eating. **38** At that time Anna came in and praised God. She spoke about the child Jesus to everyone who hoped for Jerusalem to be set free.

Anna was dedicated, she was powerful, she was the first evangelist, she was a prophet, she had served God all of her life and she was the difference maker.

Where Simeon pronounced a blessing and then made his transition, this eighty-four year old woman believed and made a difference. She didn't say, "I have seen the Lord now let me die" like Simeon. Anna praised God and then she went and laid the foundation for the ministry of Jesus.

The most important people for the fulfillment of the promises of God for this church are the people who are senior and yet believe and are willing to act and lead on what they believe. The ones who care about what God wants and thinks are going to be the difference makers. They are less concerned about what people think... you know how it goes... "I think..." Your response should always be but what does God think?

1. What is God's will?
2. What are God's promises?
3. What are you doing to bring the promise of God to pass for Wheat Street or in your life?

Anna was concerned with the things of God because Anna was close to God. Anna spent time praying, fasting and in the temple worshiping God. Anna took time to worship God. It amazes me in the church that the folk who are always talking about

what they think spend little if any time in prayer, fasting or worship. They seek to run the church without knowing the will and ways of God. Those who know the Lord, spend time with the Lord and they must not be intimidated by the evil lurks in the church.

Anna shows us that the most important people in the life of the ministry are the sisters in there advanced years because they pray, fast, believe in the promises of God and they ACT! They do something. Eighty-four is the age of blessing. The older we are the more we should know. The real elders are mature disciples of Jesus Christ who have the promises of God in their hearts and minds and they act on it and let God use them for God's glory.

Anna was empowered by God because she regularly fasted and prayed.  
What about us (you)?

How often do you (we) pray during the day (outside of morning prayer, meal time and evening prayer)?

How often do you fast from something that consumes your time (television (your soaps / reality TV / News, food, shopping, gossip, the telephone, social media, movies, etc..)and you give that time to prayer, fasting and worship?

Anna was empowered by God because she spent time in the temple. Is spending time in the temple / in worship a priority for you (us)?

## **Preaching Through the Gospel**

August 2018 - Sermon Series: Faith for the Journey: God Got You!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Preacher</b>
8/5	Luke 9:1-6	Faith for the Journey: When Less is More	Pastor Watkins
8/12	Luke 10:17-20	You Have the Power: Use it or Lose It	Pastor Watkins
8/19	Luke 11:5-13	Whatever You Need God's Got IT!	Pastor Watkins
8/26	Luke 12:32-34	Give it Up, Turn it Loose: Giving is Getting	Pastor Watkins

September 2018 - Sermon Series: What You See is What You Get: Seeing Your Future Through the Eyes of God

<b>Date</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Preacher</b>
9/2	Luke 18:1-9	Don't Quit Before You Win	Pastor Watkins
9/9	Luke 18:35-43	The Faith of Ray Charles: Just Because I am Blind Does Not Mean I Cannot See	Pastor Watkins
9/16	Luke 20:9-19	Servant, Slave or Savior: What You See Determines Who and How You Serve	Pastor Watkins
9/23	TBD	TBD	TBD
9/30	Luke 23:1-5	Sleeping with the Enemy: Who is in Your Bed? (Sermonette - Gospel Choir Concert Sunday)	Pastor Watkins

October 2018 - Sermon Series: Let Me Be Me: Know Thyself and To Thyself Be TRUE!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Preacher</b>
10/7	Matthew 1:1-17	Who Your People Be?	Pastor Watkins
10/14	Matthew 4:18-22	Will You Let Him Make You?	Pastor Watkins
10/21	Matthew 5:43-48	Praying When You Want to Cuss	Pastor Watkins
10/28	Matthew 7:1-6	Get the Mess Out to Get the Best Out	Pastor Watkins

Note: Sermons, sermon titles, sermon series and preacher subject to change via the direction of the Holy Spirit.