

Week 47
323/42

Transforming Daily
“... thanks to the Lord ...”
Luke 2:38

Anna was giving thanks to the Lord for the Lord. Anna, who was an elderly prophetess, a woman of great respect, upon seeing the Lord at the purification service, “instantly” gave thanks to the Lord. She not only gave thanks to the Lord, she began to witness to everyone about who He was. She was waiting for Him to come because of who He was not because of what she thought she could get from Him.

Anna’s thanks was not based on the hope of receiving temporal possessions, but having received eternal position from her Hope she instantly gave thanks. She had lived a long time. She knew what it was to wait. She had been a widow for many years, about 84. She knew what it was to experience disappointment, loss, and need. She had every reason to become bitter and resentful toward God, but instead, she gave thanks. Anna knew that life was more than food, shelter, and clothing. As a matter of fact, she spent most of her life at the temple, night and day.

What do you think your response would have been had you been Anna? Do you think you would have instantly given thanks to God? How about today, do you give thanks to God for the Lord, instantly or otherwise? Anna didn’t have the benefit of the New Testament or even the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and yet she was more dedicated to the Lord than most 21st century Christians.

One of the dangers of too much information and immediate gratification is desensitization. An individual can get emotionally calloused and even despondent to the things of God. That’s why the spiritual life is a daily routine of exercising personal, spiritual disciplines in order to remain sensitive to the things of God. Are you sensitive to the things of God? Do you practice the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, soul winning, ministry, service and worship? Is it a part of your spiritual agenda to achieve and develop personal thanks to the Lord?