

Day 34

## Answered Prayer



### For Personal Reflection & Prayer

- Recall an instance when a prayer I had was clearly answered.
- What am I usually praying about & asking the Lord? Do I ever pray for the salvation of mankind, that God be known and loved, for those who suffer?

*Take these considerations to the Lord in prayer, asking for light and strength.*

### Offer a prayer inspired by the words of Scripture:

*You ask but do not receive  
because you ask wrongly,  
to spend it on your passions.*

*James 4:3*

*Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace,  
according to your word,  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,*

*Luke 2:29-30*

### The Prayer of "Righteous Symeon" (from the Orthodox Christian Network)

At every Vespers, we hear the prayer: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; For my eyes have seen your salvation ..." (Luke 2: 29-31). As St. Luke the Evangelist writes, it is with these words that the Righteous Symeon praised and thanked God, when he took the 40-day old baby Jesus in his arms, while in the Temple of Jerusalem.

But who was Symeon, who claimed this special honor from God? He was a devout and faithful man, eagerly awaiting the fulfillment of the Biblical Prophecies (from Isaiah and the other Prophets) concerning the coming of Christ, the Messiah who would bring salvation to the people of Israel. Additionally, the Holy Spirit was with Symeon, and





promised him that he would not leave this world before seeing with his own eyes Christ the Savior. With this in mind, we can understand the joy he must have felt when the Holy Spirit told him that the day had come, urging him to go to the Temple. Immediately, he rushed to meet the One he had been waiting his whole life to see. As soon as he saw the Virgin Mary with Joseph, bringing the Divine Infant to the Temple, he recognized Christ, the Messiah. As St. Basil the Great writes, the divine power of the Infant illuminated the pure vision of Simeon's heart and allowed him to see God... The pious Symeon, overcome by these feelings, stretched out his hands and accepted Jesus into his arms, glorifying God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; For my eyes have seen your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." (Luke 2: 29-32).

This Ode, which is called the Canticle or Song of Symeon, is one of the most beautiful in the Holy Bible. Many of the Holy Fathers of our Church have delved deeply into its content, which is why it has been established for daily use in our holy churches (from the 300's onward)...

Symeon received a promise from the Holy Spirit that he would not die before seeing the Messiah. He waited many years for this promise to be fulfilled, and for decades he saw nothing. He had reached the age of 100, but still received no sign. Even so, he did not despair. Interpreters of this passage from the Bible estimate that Symeon had reached the age of 115 before his sacred desire became a reality. This is a great encouragement for us, to be patient and faithful to our Lord's promises. It may not come right away or when we would like it to, but in the end, God keeps His promises...

<https://myocn.net/the-prayer-of-righteous-symeon/>

