

Loving God Pays Great Dividends!

Pastor's Desk – March 5, 2017



We read in Luke 2:36-28 the following: “Anna, a prophetess, was there at the Temple. She was from the family of Phanuel in the tribe of Asher. She was now very old. She had lived with her husband seven years before he died and left her alone. She was now 84 years old. Anna was always at the Temple; she never left. She worshiped God by fasting and praying day and night. Anna was there when Joseph and Mary came to the Temple. She praised God and talked about Jesus to all those who were waiting for God to free Jerusalem.”

Sweet Anna, a prophetess who lived quite a long life, had not had a life that was a walk in the park. She was a widow for over half a century, most likely childless, a woman who enjoyed her husband for just about seven years; and chances are she had no relatives around. She did not allow the struggles in life to derail her from what was ahead. Instead of concentrating on the negative facts of life, she decided to worship her God day and night at the temple, with fasting and prayers. And it was not a 10 minute prayer and amen! She was contaminated with the “love God with all your heart” bug, and never went back to her abode. She’d rather stay in God’s presence day and night. I believe that the Lord told her He would reward her devotion and love by allowing her eyes to physically see Jesus the Messiah and Savior of the world, which she did!

It seems to me when I read this scripture that the best reaction to difficult times is focusing on the right person - God not the circumstances! Like every young lady in her days, Anna may have dreamed about having babies, raising a family and having a happy home. God chose otherwise and she went with God's program, and her very eyes contemplated Jesus the Savior of the world. Maybe we should focus a little bit more time in prayer, fasting, and spending some extra time in the house of God instead of looking at the difficulties of life! Who knows, by doing this we might be able to actually see Jesus in the midst of all chaos around us! God's vision for our lives is always better than ours.

Pr. Paul