

**HOPE FULFILLED
GOOD NEWS SERIES, PART 1**

Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity...
...and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple...

...but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. **Luke 2:36-38¹**

1. A WIDOW

She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity, and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years... **Luke 2:37-38**

An unmarried woman... is [*should be*]concerned about the things of the Lord, **to be holy both in body and spirit**. But a married woman is concerned about the things of the world, how to please her husband. I am saying this for your benefit... **so that without distraction** you may give notable and constant service to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:34b-35 (NIV)

A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. [*But*] If her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but only if he loves the Lord. **But** in my opinion, **it would be better for her to stay single**. **1 Corinthians 7:39-40 (NLT)**

Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. **Matthew 5:8**

APPLICATION: PROPHETIC VISION TO SEE THE THINGS OF GOD ARE CONNECTED TO A LIFE OF PURITY AND HOLINESS IN BODY AND SPIRIT.

¹ All scripture references are from the NKJV of the Bible unless otherwise stated.

2. A WORKER

... *[she]* did not depart from the temple, but served God... **Luke 2:37**

No widow is to be enrolled on **the list for support** unless she is at least sixty years old, has been the wife of one husband, and **is well known for good works**—that is, if she has brought up children, shown hospitality, washed the saints' feet, helped the afflicted, and devoted herself to every good work. **1 Timothy 5:9-10 (CSB)**

APPLICATION: BELIEVERS CAN RETIRE FROM THE MARKETPLACE BUT THEY NEVER RETIRE FROM SERVICE TO GOD AND HIS PEOPLE.

3. A WORSHIPER

[Anna] served God with fastings and prayers night and day. **Luke 2:37**

Application: Every father has a responsibility to guard their family's faith and be diligent to pass the heritage of faith down to their children and their children's children.

APPLICATION: THERE IS A PRICE TO PAY TO SEE GOD — TO BE FAVORED BY GOD, OR TO BE A PART OF A SUPERNATURAL MOVE OF GOD.

4. A WITNESS

[She] spoke of Him *[Jesus]* to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.
Luke 2:38

APPLICATION: FINDING THE COURAGE TO PERSONALLY SHARE OUR FAITH IN CHRIST IS JUST AS RELEVANT TODAY AS IT WAS IN ANNA'S DAY.

5. A WAITER

She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity, and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years. **Luke 2:36-37**

APPLICATION: SOMETIMES WAITING ON GOD CAN BE A LONG WAIT — BUT IT'S ALWAYS WORTH IT BECAUSE GOD IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL.

CLOSING

Anna's faith was not fanatical. It was actually normative. This is what **normal faith** looks like. Can we choose to commit ourselves to developing a faith like Anna as we enter the Advent Season?