

Message Series Title: **'Simply Jesus'**

Message Title: **'Prompted'**

Scripture Source: **Luke 2:25-32**

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Speaker: John Garner

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### **You, Me and our 'Promptings'**

Ever felt you should do or not do something...and brushed that 'prompting' aside? Sometimes we call it 'gut instinct', conscience, intuition, a niggling, or a soul stirring. These 'promptings' can catch us off guard and leave us wondering, 'what do I do with this?' And, what we do with them creates either deep regret or gratitude. Illustrate: a call made, you realize how timely it was...gratitude

### **A Timely Prompting**

As I read the Christmas story and the aftermath of Jesus' birth an amazing 'prompting' is recorded and the effects of it are highly instructive thousands of years later. This story can be easily overlooked in the narrative of the Nativity. But, let's not rush through it this Christmas Eve!

Simeon's story: Luke 2:25-32 Capture the highlights: his character, faith, sensitivity to God's agenda and promise of a Messiah, his response of obedience and faith to a unique, never-to-be-repeated 'prompting' from God, and the rich encouragement received. Simeon paid attention to a "God prompting" and his life was never the same again. He experienced personally and first-hand the Saviour.

### **Insights for Us**

1. God still 'prompts' individuals today. Prompt means: "to urge into action...to move or inspire by suggestion" He still yearns to seize our attention with a specific direction to move in...one that is wholesome, healthy, and purposeful. And he hopes that we 'pay attention' and act. Like Simeon. Are you open to be prompted by God, to a good and healthy action?
2. God uses all sorts of life experiences and spiritual resources to grab our attention. How does God actually get my attention and prompt me to a specific course of action?
  - Conscience, especially a guilty one!
  - Pain/loss...soul searching moments
  - Wonderful experiences of goodness and love
  - Curiosity
  - Stories of others that intrigue us
  - Emptiness/disenchantment
  - Scripture, Holy Spirit, soul stirrings
3. What kinds of things does God prompt us to do/be? Do any of these statements stir something deep within you? Please pay attention...
  - Seek after spiritual truth and an understanding of Jesus
  - To integrate faith with everyday life
  - To repair relational rifts/breakdowns
  - To show practical love to others
  - To offer hope and help to people in need
  - To be honest about personal addictions and to seek help and recovery
  - To get finances in order
  - To take better care of our body, soul, and spirit
  - To confess sin to God and receive Christ's forgiveness
  - To make amends with someone you have wronged
  - To ask God for help and hope
  - To ask someone worth trusting for guidance along the way

4. God's promptings Align: with the Bible and the character of Jesus
  - Simeon "went into the temple"- speaks of God's presence and the authority of His Word- God will never 'prompt' you to act in a way that is harmful to yourself or others or that contradicts the Bible. Never. Illustrate: crazy claims
  
5. Why does God Prompt Us?
  - He yearns for you and me to experience His salvation, forgiveness, a restored relationship with God and the ability to contribute in meaningful ways to others. He loves people like you and me. Christmas is God's passionate declaration of love for humanity...people lost and confused, looking for hope in all sorts of places, and yet missing out on the grace and power of God...Jesus with the skin on.
  
6. Time To Act
  - A prayer, a confession, an action, a call for help, a call offering help...what 'God-prompting' is stirring in you tonight? Some of us are here because of a 'prompting.' I am thrilled you acted and moved in God's direction. Keep following in the steps of Jesus. John 8:12  
Pay attention to these 'sacred stirrings'. The God who is behind them is for you. Move in his direction, for the first time or yet another time. You will experience as Simeon did that first Christmas season gratitude, joy, and hope for the future.