

## ***God's Calling Requirements Part 45***

### ***Parents Should Not Manipulate the Plans of God for their Children***

***“25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” (Luke 2:25-35 KJV)***

People love so much to meet and to speak with righteous people who are anointed and led by the Holy Spirit. Most of the time they think that meeting such people will grant them blessings from God. **Righteous people what they usually do is this: they would impart the Word of God and the will of God to those people who come across their lives, and the blessing of God will be imparted when people obey and submit themselves to the will of God and be subject to His Word. It is not the prayer or the laying on of the hands of the righteous people will impart the blessings of God but your willingness to obey the instructions to you that comes from God's Word.**

Simeon the just and devout man, the Holy Spirit was upon him, and it was revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he will meet the Savior, Jesus Christ, before his death. ***“25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.” (Luke 2:25-26 KJV)***

***“27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law.” (Luke 2:27 KJV)*** This man was led by the Spirit to move to meet the parents when they brought Jesus.

***“28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word.” (Luke 2:28-29 KJV)*** He was joyous to meet the Lord because he knew that the Lord soon would accomplish what He had promised him. Being an old man and probably having difficulty in moving and managing his life, he was glad in meeting the Lord, the salvation of God, knowing that the time of his departure with the Lord had come ***“30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation.” (Luke 2:30 KJV)*** ***“6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:6-8 KJV)***

Here Simeon proclaimed the following about Jesus:

***1. “30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation.” (Luke 2:30 KJV)*** In Jesus Christ is the salvation of God.

***2. “31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.” (Luke 2:31 KJV)*** Jesus Christ is the salvation of God to all people.

***3. “32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.” (Luke 2:32 KJV)*** Jesus Christ is the salvation of God to all people, and He is the light for the Jews and the Gentiles. He is the Light of the world that through Him only we can see the truth and we will not walk in darkness; and those who receive Him as Savior and Lord over their lives, they will live in the light of God.

***“33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.” (Luke 2:33 KJV)*** Joseph and Mary were so happy to hear such thing about their child. Parents are happy to hear marvelous things about their children. Sure they were also happy that Simeon blessed them, ***“And Simeon blessed them.” (Luke 2:34 KJV)***

Simeon after he blessed the parents, he turned to His mother, Mary, and told her the following, ***“and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; 35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” (Luke 2:34-35 KJV)*** What Simeon told to Mary, that Jesus would cause some people to fall and some others to rise. So He will be causing, and to be a source of conflict. Not only that but He will be a sign that will be spoken against. It means that He will be opposed by others. Such kind of words mothers or parents would not be happy to receive about their children, even if the message of God would come through a devout man like Simeon. In fact, Simeon, asserted the message to Mary by this statement: ***“35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” (Luke 2:35 KJV)***

***“(Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,)” (Luke 2:35 KJV)*** What Simeon was telling Mary that there will be something happening to this child of yours that will be painful to you. A sword to pierce your soul, means you will pass through painful experience that you will not be happy with. Parents usually use to pamper their children and give them good things, as an expression of their loves and emotions toward them. Parents avoid disciplining their children and avoid causing them the pain of the rod because they don't want them to feel the pain. **When our children suffer under discipline the good plan of God will come true in their lives.**

Simeon also said, ***“that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” (Luke 2:35 KJV)*** Not only the thoughts of many, but even the thoughts of Mary would be revealed and shown. Mary sure would not be happy to hear that. Even other parents or mothers would not be happy to hear such prophecies for their children.

**Parents as usual they have their own plans and wishes and dreams for their children and would do their best to dictates those particular plans into the life of their children. Parents in the standard of this world would always chose the best standard of this world to educate their**

children, the best college, the best profession, the best place in the world to live and so on. But when the plan of God in the life of their children comes toward humility and suffering parents would not accept such plans of God for their children. Parents who are not willing to comply with God and His plans for their children, they would start to manipulate their children to move away from these plans of God and would let them move in their own plans that come from the parents' pride, ego and dreams.

The Holy Spirit that was upon Simeon spoke to Mary and not to Joseph about what would be happening to Jesus. ***“And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother,” (Luke 3:34 KJV)*** Maybe Joseph as a just man, probably his mind set up was willing to accept what the prophecy of Simeon spoke about what would be happening to Jesus. Scripture did not show that Joseph was resisting the plan of God and the fate of Jesus, being opposed by the Jews and would ultimately to be crucified on the cross. But also possibly that Simeon did not speak to Joseph, because he might be dead at the time of Jesus' ministry and crucifixion.

But in the course of time, we find in the Scripture that Mary was trying to deter Jesus from pursuing what God had ordained for Him to pass through and as the following:

***1. At the Wedding at Cana she wanted to interfere with Jesus' timing:*** ***“1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.” (John 2:1-4 KJV)*** Mary spoke with Jesus not as God, her Creator, but she was ordering him as her own son. She wanted to boast in that occasion that her son can do great things. She wanted to portray herself as the queen mother. She might also moved with her emotions to help the situation of the people in the wedding, that is why she put forward her suggestion upon her son and asked Him to help them to relieve them. But Jesus' reply to her made her understand that God has His own timing and plan. Jesus put her at the right limit when He told her, ***“Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.” (John 2:4 KJV)*** Even after the wedding of Cana His mother remained for a while with Him in His mission, ***“12 After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.” (John 2:12 KJV)*** Catholics who portray that Mary is divine and would honor her and direct their prayers to her, possibly they do that because they got confused when Mary approached and intercede on the behalf of the people who lacked at that wedding. They got stumble with what Mary did in manipulating God's plan for Jesus and interfering in His ministry especially in what she did in the wedding at Cana. But Mary understood that He is God and He has His own timing, and she made it clear, when she said to the servants, ***“Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.” (John 2:5 KJV)***

***2. When she wanted to take him out from a meeting He had with the people:*** ***“31 There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him.32 And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee.33 And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren?34 And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!35 For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.” (Mark 3:31-35 KJV)*** His mother was afraid about him because they were telling about Him that He was not in the right mind, that He was demon possessed,

and especially those who accused Him were the scribes that came from Jerusalem; who came to Galilee to investigate Him, and they said about Him that He had Beelzebub, a devil, ***“21 And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself. 22 And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.” (Mark 3:21-22 KJV)*** That made Mary more worry about Him because already the headquarter in Jerusalem is aware of Him by the coming of the scribes and their arguments with Him. That is why she came to take Him away from that meeting. Probably she was conscious of the prophecy of Simeon and she was doing all what she can to prevent that prophecy from coming true. Many parents when they are seeing that God allowing their children to go through sufferings and hardships as they are doing God's will, they will do what they can to spare their children the suffering. Mary was not able to manipulate God's plan for Jesus because Jesus is God and He did not allow her to succeed in that. **Many Parents who usually manipulate God's plan for their children and would try to chose to them the most worldly things and the most comfortable things, they would probably succeed in that because children are human and not God. They will succeed to do that, but they are unaware that their children will not be blessed because their children had departed from the plan of God that He has for them.**

***3. Upon the duplicity of his mother Mary, even His own brothers did not believe on Him:*** ***“1 After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him.2 Now the Jew's feast of tabernacles was at hand. 3 His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.4 For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world.5 For neither did his brethren believe in him.” (John 7:1-5 KJV)*** The non-strong stand of Mary toward what Jesus would be passing through probably weakened the faith of the rest of His brothers in the family. **Parents, one of them or both, who would try to manipulate the plan of God for their children would affect the faith of their children and bring them away from the will of God.**

Families or parent who hinder or manipulate the plan of God for their children they would not be light for others to spread the gospel. The Holy Spirit will not shine in duplicity. Parents who profess God and serve Him but they reject God's plans for their children because do not suit their egos and pride, their families are in idol worship and will not be a good testimony to others to know Christ and to receive God's will and council. Duplicity in the parents brings out a confusing message to their children and to the rest of the world around them.

***4. Ultimately Mary faced the truth at the cross of Jesus and accepted the prophecy of Simeon:*** ***“25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.” (John 19:25-27 KJV)*** This time Mary accepted the will God for her son Jesus. She surrendered her will to God. She accepted that her son, the Creator, to be her Lord, calling her, ***“Woman”***, and she obeyed His instruction being her Lord and her God, and went to the house of the disciple that Jesus loved.

5. ***Mary she was reminded and brought to what she promised God:*** The following was what Mary promised the angel who announced to her that she will be pregnant with Jesus, ***“38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.” (Luke 1:38 KJV)*** She promised to be the handmaid of God, but in the course of time she wanted to get the upper hand over God. **Parent certain times forget what they prayed for and what they had promised God. Let the Word of God and the Holy Spirit remind you always and to convict you to do and live what you had committed yourself to be and to do.**

6. ***Mary became a good example to others:*** Mary after she surrendered her life to God, she was part of the church, she brought her children to the Lord, and they were all under the spiritual care of the apostles: ***“13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.” (Acts 1:13-14 KJV)***

Mary and her children were in one accord with the apostles. They were together witnessing what the early church was passing through, and they were among the 120 disciples, and they witnessed and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost that enabled them to serve God's purpose by declaring the wonderful work of God in different tongues. ***“1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4 KJV)***

***My dear and beloved, brothers, sisters and parents! “35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,)” (Luke 2:35 KJV)*** The sword according to the Scripture is, ***“The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:” (Ephesians 6:17 KJV)*** ***“12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12 KJV)*** \* I pray for all of you parents to be good example to others. Therefore, commit yourself to the calling of God, accept the will of God for your life and for the life of your children. \* Do not manipulate the plan of God for them because that will not be of benefit to them. God has good plan for your children and they will be blessed if you work with God to let them pursue that. \* Rather cooperate with God and walk and work with Him to make that come true and you will witness the blessed life that God had prepared for your children and their children. Let us pray ...

***My Prayer:*** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your Word that teaches me about your good plans that you have for my children and thank you for reminding me of what I promised to you. Lord thank you for all the corrections and the admonitions that I received in this message.

***Confess now and renounce your sins. Confess your pride and arrogance, doing your own will and plan and hindering the plans of God for your children. Confess your worldliness, your***

***boasting and showing off. Renounce your emotions that manipulating you to do your own will. Renounce your trust on education, jobs and material things more than God. Confess your lack of commitment to God and your non willingness to suffer for him and to serve Him. Lord forgive me I repent from the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.***

***Lord I surrender my life to you. I am willing to abide with your plans that you have for my children. I trust you that your plans are the best for them. Lord I will work with you to let my children to be in your perfect plan and will. Lord I commit myself to live the style of life that you wants me to live for you. This is all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.***

***Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed their lives once again to live for you and to serve you. Lord provide their needs and lead them step by step into the good plans that you have for them and for their children. Lord make them grow and make them mature and responsible and aid them in the trials that you are allowing them to pass through and use them to serve you in your church and ministries.***

***Lord bless us as your church and help us to teach parents and to continue to train them to do your will and follow the goods plans that you have for them and for their children. Lord help us to persevere in the trials that you allow us as a church to pass through. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize, making new disciples, training new workers, and planting new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord bless and fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God’. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus’ name, Amen.***

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