

# Anna — *Thankfulness in the Waiting*

## *Unshakable Women's Bible Study* 11/11/25

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### **A 5 day devotional:**

**Theme:** *A thankful heart stays faithful, even in the waiting.*

#### **Key Verse:**

*"She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God."* – Luke 2:37–38 (NLT)

### **Day 1: Faithful in the Waiting**

**Scripture:** *"Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple... She was now eighty-four years old. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer."* – Luke 2:36–37 (NLT)

#### **Devotional Thought:**

Anna remained steadfast through decades of waiting. Her life teaches us that **gratitude isn't limited to seasons of abundance—it's cultivated in faithfulness**. Even when her prayers seemed unanswered, she kept showing up with a thankful heart. When you don't see him, he's still working. When you don't feel it, he's working.

#### **Reflection Question:**

How can I maintain a heart of gratitude when I've been waiting on a promise for a long time?

#### **Prayer:**

Lord, give me the endurance to remain faithful in every season. Let thankfulness fill my heart while I wait for what I am believing for. My faith will increase not diminish.

### **Day 2: Worship as a Lifestyle**

**Scripture:** *"She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer."* – Luke 2:37 (NLT)

#### **Devotional Thought:**

Anna's **worship wasn't a weekly routine—it was her lifestyle**. It's not just a Sunday thing or Bible Study day thing. Thankful hearts don't wait for perfect conditions to praise; they worship

because of who God is, not what He's done yet. Gratitude invites the Lord's presence into our every day.

**Reflection Questions:**

Is my worship dependent on circumstances, or is it rooted in who God is? Do I truly know the nature of the God I serve?

**Prayer:**

Der Jesus, I always want to worship you consistently, not conditionally. Teach me to live a lifestyle of thanksgiving that honors you daily. I will stay steadfast in my love for you. Thank you for all that you've done for me and what you are bringing into my life.

## **Day 3: Thankfulness Births Revelation**

**Scripture:** *"She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God."* – Luke 2:38 (NLT)

**Devotional Thought:**

In her thankfulness, Anna recognized the Messiah others overlooked. She knew the child, Jesus, that she came across in the temple was the Messiah who would bring salvation, comfort, and deliverance to God's people. **Thankfulness clears your vision—it helps you see what God is doing when others only see the ordinary.**

**Reflection Question:**

Are there things I've missed because I've been focused on what I don't have instead of what God is doing?

**Prayer:**

Lord, open my eyes to see your hand at work around me. Let my gratitude tune my heart to recognize your presence. Show me and guide me.

## **Day 4: A Voice of Thanksgiving**

**Scripture:** *"She began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem."* – Luke 2:38 (NLT)

**Devotional Thought:**

There's a specific sound to thankfulness/gratitude. Anna didn't keep her gratitude to herself—she shared it. **True thankfulness becomes contagious.** When we testify of God's goodness, it stirs faith in others who are still waiting.

***Psalm 40:3 (NLT) “He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what He has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord.”***

- When you publicly praise God, others “see and are amazed,” and it inspires them to trust Him too.

***Psalm 107:2 (NLT) “Has the Lord redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others He has redeemed you from your enemies.”***

- Sharing your gratitude is not just personal—it’s powerful. When we testify, it strengthens faith in the hearers.

***2 Corinthians 4:15 (NLT) All of this is for your benefit. And as God’s grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.”***

- Your gratitude multiplies—when you share it, it spreads! Others see God’s grace in your life and begin to thank Him too.

**Reflection Question:**

How can I use my story to encourage others to remain thankful and expectant?

**Prayer:**

Jesus, let my gratitude be a testimony. Use my voice to remind others that you are faithful and your promises never fail. Amen!

## **Day 5: Thankfulness That Finishes Well**

**Scripture:** “Now, Lord, let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. I have seen your salvation.” – Luke 2:29–30 (NLT)

**Devotional Thought:**

Anna’s life reminds us that *thankfulness and faithfulness go hand in hand*. She had spent decades in the temple—fasting, praying, and worshiping—without seeing the promise yet fulfilled. But her consistency wasn’t rooted in what she could see; it was anchored in who she knew God to be.

When the day finally came and she laid eyes on the infant Jesus, Anna didn’t respond with exhaustion. She responded with *joyful thanksgiving*. Her **worship in the waiting prepared her for peace in the promise**.

Luke 2 tells us she “*began praising God and spoke about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.*” (Luke 2:38 NLT) That’s what a thankful heart looks like—it doesn’t fade at the finish line; it overflows.

Gratitude is what sustains you through any times of waiting. It keeps your heart soft, your hope alive, and your faith steady. Many people grow weary or bitter when God's timing seems slow, but a thankful heart finishes well—like Anna and Simeon, who both saw God's faithfulness with their own eyes and could say, "Now, Lord, let your servant die in peace." (Luke 2:29 NLT)

When your heart is full of gratitude, you won't just finish your race—you'll finish it strong, peaceful, and joyful, knowing that every day of waiting was worth it.

**Reflection Question:**

How can I cultivate a thankful heart that endures through every stage of life?

**Prayer:**

Dear Lord, let my gratitude deepen with age and experience. May I finish my race full of praise, just like Anna. I will grow stronger and stronger in my thankfulness, praise, faith, and dedication as long as I am on this earth.