

# HANNAH AT PRAYER 1 SAM. 1:9-28

**Acts 3:22** For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. **Acts 3:23** And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

**Acts 3:24** Yea, and all the prophets **from Samuel** and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

**Acts 13:20** And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, **until Samuel the prophet.**

**Hebrews 11:32** And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: **Hebrews 11:33** Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

**The story of Samuel, on the whole, is one of godliness, excellence & of a great follower....**

- **Transitional figure between judges and prophets**
- **A prophet, priest & judge!**
- **Last of the judges**
- **First~ of the prophets**

**That's what happened – that's the actual story.**

**But it could have been so different!**

**Hannah was in a crucible – an extreme test &/ crisis! The identical crucible we find ourselves in quite often with the 3 identical choices:**

- |                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Striking back in anger | 2. Shutting down in bitterness |
| 3. Reaching out in prayer | 4. Running off                 |

**Obviously Hannah reaches out & up in prayer!**

## **I. For Hannah, prayer is based upon certain assumptions**

**1 Samuel 1:3** And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh....

**1 Samuel 1:7** And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat. **1 Samuel 1:9** So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk.... **1 Samuel 1:10** And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.

For many, prayer is never a real, viable option → even as believers this option is taken off the table. Striking back / shutting down become the only options!

The text indicates Elkanah's family, although imperfect, were strong believers!

### **Assumptions:**

- **God exists**
- **God is personal → capable of having relationships with you**
- **God can be worshipped**
- **God is interested in people!**

**1 Peter 5:7** Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

**Psalms 55:22** Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

- **God is interested in Hannah and her little problems**

**Matthew 10:29** Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground **without** your Father.

**Matthew 10:30** But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **Matthew 10:31** Fear ye not therefore, ye are of **more value** than many sparrows.

- **God can hear & can answer prayer**

**Psalms 65:2** O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.

**Matthew 7:7** Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: **Matthew 7:8** For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. **Matthew 7:9** Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? **Matthew 7:10** Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? **Matthew 7:11** If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

**Ephesians 3:20** Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, **Ephesians 3:21** Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

➤ **The Lord of hosts will come to the aid of the girl from the hills!**

**1 Samuel 1:11** And she vowed a vow, and said, **O LORD of hosts**, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

## II. For Hannah, prayer is **born out of deep pain**

**1 Samuel 1:6** And her adversary also **provoked her sore, for to make her fret**, because the LORD had shut up her womb. **1 Samuel 1:7** And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, **so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.** **1 Samuel 1:9** So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. **1 Samuel 1:10** And she was **in bitterness of soul**, and prayed unto the LORD, and **wept sore.** **1 Samuel 1:15** And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, **I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit**: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. **1 Samuel 1:16** Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: **for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.**

We, as Christians, **know** certain things about prayer:

- **Christians pray**
- **Christians pray regularly**
- **Christians gather together and pray**
- **Christians are taught to pray and even how to pray!**
- **Christians struggle to pray!** (That is with fervor, passion, attention....)
- **Christians “sometimes” fail to pray while / when praying!**
- **Christians then discipline their prayer time: a time(s), location(s), & a list**
- **Christians pray best & most out of deep pain and distress**
- **The deep pain & distress doesn't have to be your own**

**Romans 12:15** Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

**1 Timothy 2:1** I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, **intercessions**, and **giving of thanks, be made for all men; 1**

**Timothy 2:2** **For** kings, and **for** all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty

## III. For Hannah, prayer is **backed-up by vows**

**1 Samuel 1:11** And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, **if** thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, **then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.**

**1 Samuel 1:17** Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: **and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.** **1 Samuel 1:19**...and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her. **1 Samuel 1:20** Wherefore it came to pass, ...that she bare a son, **and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD.** **1 Samuel 1:21** And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow. **1 Samuel 1:22** **But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.** **1 Samuel 1:23** And Elkanah her husband said unto her, **Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word.** So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.

**1 Samuel 1:24** And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her.... **1 Samuel 1:25** And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli. **1 Samuel 1:26** And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, **I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.** **1 Samuel 1:27** **For this child I prayed;** and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: **1 Samuel 1:28** **Therefore** also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD....

**Prayer changes things!**

**Prayer also changes you!**