



**“I Poured Out My Soul
Before the Lord”**

(Serving God Despite Distractions)

1 Samuel 1:9-18

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⁹ So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the Lord.

¹⁰ And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish. ¹¹ Then she made a vow and said, “O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.” ¹² And it happened, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli watched her mouth.

¹³ Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. ¹⁴ So Eli said to her, “How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!” ¹⁵ But Hannah answered and said, “No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord. ¹⁶ Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now.” ¹⁷ Then Eli answered and said, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him.” ¹⁸ And she said, “Let your maidservant find favor in your sight.” So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

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Setting the Stage of 1 Sam. 1:1-8

- Polygamy provided a difficult situation for Hannah despite her husband's love for her
- Barrenness caused Hannah much sorrow
- She lived with continual provocation from Peninnah
- Immorality & corruption in high places is noted by presence of Hophni & Phinehas
 - *See 1 Sam. 2:12-17 & 2:22-25*
- Easy for Hannah to give up in hopelessness

Hannah's Faith Seen In:
Worship of God Amidst
Evil of Surroundings

Worship of God Must Not Be Deterred by Evil in Others

- Though living in a time of corruption even among priests, Hannah worshipped God
- Our worship is not dependent on righteous life of others, but on our own heart & action
 - *John 4:23-24* Fitness of our worship is up to us
 - *Psalms 29:1-2* It is due Him – God deserves it
 - *Revelation 14:6-8* Worthiness seen in creation
 - *1 Peter 2:9* Most evident in provision for salvation
- Must seek strength in worship in face of evil

**Hannah's Faith Seen In:
Focus on Service Amidst
Mocking & False Charges**

Service To God Must Continue Despite Reaction of Others

- Hannah endured abuse of Peninnah & Eli wrongly charged her with drunkenness
- Did not use suffering as excuse to cease service
 - *1 Peter 2:11-12* We will be slandered & criticized
 - *1 Peter 4:12-16, 19* We should expect suffering
 - *Matthew 5:11-12* Reviled & persecuted prophets too
- When faced with evil suffered, we must not turn sullen, inactive or bitter
- Must increase service like Christ did

Hannah's Faith Seen In:
Prayer Amidst Sorrow

Prayer Is Our Opportunity to Address God with Our Cares

- Hannah realized that her cares should be given over to God in prayer
 - ***1 Peter 5:6-7*** Give to God – “He cares for you”
 - ***John 12:27-33*** “Now My soul is troubled...”
 - ***Luke 22:41-44*** “Being in agony... prayed more...”
 - ***Hebrews 5:7-8*** Parallel – “With vehement cries”
 - ***James 5:13*** “Is any suffering? Let him pray”
- Prayer is our avenue to seek God’s help

Hannah's Faith Seen In:
Prayer for God's Cause
Amidst Desire for Self

We Must Focus on God's Cause, Not Selfish Desires

- Hannah's desire for a son was not focused on her needs to secure her temporal place
- Received desire when benefit given to God
 - ***Matthew 6:31-33*** Not to worry on physical, but...
 - ***Matthew 16:24-26*** Deny self, take us cross, follow...
 - ***Hebrews 11:24-26*** Moses saw value of suffering
- Worldly desires do not bring contentment, but spiritual focus brings true fulfillment

Hannah's Faith Seen In:
Believing God's Promise
Amidst No Proven Answer

Trust in God Is Product of Faith & Hope, Not Physical Sight

- Did not even ask a sign of Eli to confirm the fact of God's promise
- Full trust in promise clear by her reaction
 - *Hebrews 11:1-3, 13* Faith is trust in things unseen
 - *Romans 4:18-25* Contrary to hope, believed in...
 - *Philippians 3:17-21* Enemies of cross vs citizens...
 - *2 Timothy 1:8-12* Suffer with Paul & gospel
- If have full faith in promise, actions show it

Conclusion

- Are the characteristics of Hannah's faith present in me?
- Is worship & service to God my priority?
- Do I worship & serve regardless of cost?
- Whom do I seek in times of trouble?
- Am I ready for prayers to be answered in a way that accomplishes His will, not mine?
- Have the promises of God changed my life completely & visibly?