

## **1 SAMUEL 1:10-13 -- HANNAH'S PRAYER WITHOUT WORDS -- CRYING TO THE LORD FOR A SON; PROMISES TO GIVE HIM TO THE LORD FOR LIFE!**

***1Sa 1:10-13*** *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.*

4/14/18 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

### **"Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior – Frances J. Crosby – sung by Joslin Grove Choral Society**

1. *Pass me not, O gentle Savior, Hear my humble cry; While on others Thou art calling, Do not pass me by.*
  - *Refrain: Savior, Savior, Hear my humble cry, While on others Thou art calling, Do not pass me by.*
2. *Thou the spring of all my comfort, More than life to me, Whom have I on earth beside Thee, Whom in Heav'n but Thee. (Refrain – 2X)*

**The Biblical Setting: - 1 Samuel** - A transition period in the history of Israel of leadership from judges to kings. They weren't following God as King. "Every man did that what was right in his own eyes! We now meet Elkanah and his wife Hannah. Elkanah was a Levite of the tribe of Kohath. He had two wives – Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had children but Hannah was barren. Verse 5 tells us that "the LORD had closed her womb." Being barren was a cultural curse as a wife's primary duty was to produce a son for her husband. Each year Elkanah would go up to Shiloh for the feast, taking Hannah with him. Peninnah would provoke Hannah, causing her to weep and not to eat. This had become now an obsession, her inability to have a child. Peninnah kept on pressing in on that point. Elkanah her husband asked her, Hannah, why are you weeping? And why don't you eat? Why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons? He didn't understand. What she was needing was sympathetic understanding. She doesn't need a rational explanation, she needs understanding. But Elkanah knows that ultimately he can't solve the problem. Only God can!

***1Sa 1:9-10*** *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 (angry, discontented, chafed, heavy) of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish (bewail, mourn with tears, weep).*

- She "wept in anguish," or sobbed convulsively. The bitterness of her soul, praying to the LORD.
- She **did the right thing**. She brought her grief and sorrows to the LORD, poured out her heart to God. That's really where we are going to find our help, the sympathetic understanding that we need.
- This **good use we should make of our afflictions**, they should make us the **more active in our prayer life**.

***1Sa 1:11*** *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."*

- First, The LORD had to get Hannah in alignment with His purposes. This happened as she was praying, "LORD, if You'll just give me a son, I'll give him to You all the days of his life."
- She is promising to give the male child back to God: "LORD, if you'll just give me a child, I'll give him back to You." He'll be consecrated to You all the days of his life. No razor shall come to his head."
- God needed a man to lead the children of Israel to a spiritual revival, and there was no man in Israel that God could use. So **God is going to use a woman to get a man!**
- Now God is going to answer her prayer for a male child in order to give a great prophet to the nation, Israel! This is greater than previous prayers for a child to give to her husband. Now she is in harmony with the LORD!
- When **God answers our prayer with a "wait"**, He will **always give us something better than we have asked!**

***1Sa 1:12-13*** *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.*

- It says that she was praying from, "her heart." She was lying there in the agony and bitterness of her soul. The bitterness was so deep, so great, that she can't even audibly express her prayer to God. Just **in the agony of her heart, pouring out her soul to God, her lips moving: but no words coming forth**. As she is lying there, her

body is heaving with sobs and the mouth is moving. Eli looks and says, "Put your wine away from you." A similar incorrect reaction by those observing, that we see in Acts Chapter 2.

**1Sa 1:15** *But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful (severe, grievous, hard) spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured (spill forth, gush out, expend, bleed) out my soul before the LORD.*

- Now she says that she poured out her soul to the LORD. This is probably **prayer at its deepest**. In *Romans 8:26* "The Spirit also helps our weaknesses: for we do not always know how to pray as we ought: the spirit will make intercession through groanings which cannot be uttered." So with Hannah. There was no sound, there was no utterance. But **the groaning of her spirit, the pouring out of her soul; the prayer that was coming out of her heart could not be uttered**. She was in deep spiritual communication with God.
- Too often our prayers are from our heads instead of our hearts. God sometimes brings us **to that place of utter desperation and despair**, which brings us to a depth of prayer that we don't just normally enter into, **when we really get desperate before God**.

**1Sa 1:16-18** *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.*

- She believed the promise of God, that God had heard her prayer. She believed that God was going to grant her request. The sign of faith was that **she went ahead, ate, and was sad no more**. Now she's smiling, she's happy. Why? Because **she has that confidence that God will keep His word**.

**1Sa 1:19** *Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.*

- Prayer, if it follows the full cycle, will usually end in worship. It usually begins in worship, and enters into petition, then goes back to finish with worship. In the model prayer that the Lord gave us: "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.." Worship. It goes to petition: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." And then it goes back to worship. "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."
- It is always **a glorious time when the assurance of God's Word comes to our hearts, and our petitions are changed to worship: "Oh LORD, thank you."** You have that **assurance that God is going to work in you**. You've committed it unto God and the Spirit just brings you that glorious peace. God is going to work and you just worship the LORD in confidence. It's all taken care of. God is going to do His purpose and His plan. You just have that confidence and you worship God.

**1Sa 1:20** *So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the LORD."*

She had made the vow: "LORD, you give me a son. I will give him back to You all the days of his life." So she wanted to keep him until he was weaned. And when she took him then after his weaning, that was to be it. He was to remain there with Eli as a servant of the LORD all the days of his life.

### **SUMMARY:**

- **At times of great vexation, anguish of spirit and sorrowful heart, who or what do you turn to?**
- **At such times do you turn to your only source of help? The Lord?**
- **Do you often pray full cycle – worship; prayer; worship?**
- **Do you frequently sense the assurance of God's Word at the end of your prayers?**
- **When finishing praying, do you usually sense His peace through His Spirit in knowing that all has been committed to Him and now it's in His hands?**
- **Hannah heard the word and conceived, just as later Mary will hear the Word and conceive a Son!**

**Pray Today For:** Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct.

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