

1 Samuel 1:9–18

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.

"Hannah's Prayer" ***1 Samuel 1:9-18***

INTRO:

Have you ever thought about how much God says about prayer? In **Jeremiah 33:3** God exhorted His troubled prophet, ***“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”*** The Apostle Paul in his sentence sermons in **1 Thessalonians 5** tells us to, ***“Pray without ceasing.”*** Even the Lord Jesus Himself said in His Sermon on the Mount, ***“But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”***
Matthew 6:6.

Prayer is important to God. We will consider this morning the account of Hannah, the mother of Samuel. We will discover the importance of prayer, particularly a mother's prayer.

I. A Mother's Desperate Plea (v. 9-18)

II. God's Sovereign Plan

I. A Mother's Desperate Plea (v. 9-18)

A. We find Hannah, a woman with a great love for God and a very heavy burden on her heart. She wanted to have a child and she could not conceive. (v.1-7)

1. In Old Testament times there was a belief a man's posterity was bound up in his having a son to perpetuate his name. If his wife was barren, her barrenness was thought to be a curse from God.

2. We can evaluate this event in several ways. One way is historically. Our Lord brought significant leaders for His people as the offspring of wombs which were barren. Do you remember Sarah? God promised a son and Isaac was born after decades of barrenness. Rebekah also was barren for many years until Isaac prayed that God would open her womb and Jacob was born the father of the nation was born. Do you remember Elizabeth who was barren when God promised John the Baptist to Zacharias. Hannah then was one of a long line of women who would bare key people in the plan of God.

B. We know Hannah's distress peaked at the time of the feast.

v.7 "So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat."

While everyone else was eating and drinking, Hannah could not eat. Her burden was so heavy, it seemed more important to her to pray than to eat.

1. After the ***"official"*** eating part of the feast was finished. Hannah arose and moved to a place near the Tabernacle so she could place her burden in the hands of the Lord. She wanted to pray.

2. We are told in **verse 13** Hannah did not pray out loud. She spoke in her heart and while her lips moved, her voice was not heard. I understand that this is the first record of silent prayer in the Bible. I take great encouragement that although the writer of Scripture records she did not speak with her voice, God heard both what she said and what she was feeling. Look at

vs.10 – 11 "And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish. 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.'"

3. God understands the heart and sometimes what we feel that communicates more to the Lord than what we say.

Romans 8:26 "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

C. There are some lessons that suggest themselves here.

1. First, our God delights in answering earnest prayer. The Scriptures are clear that God expects our prayers to be heart felt and sincere. Consider

James 5:16 *“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”*

Earnestness is not something that we work up in order to be heard. It comes out of the deep seated desires of our hearts for God's will to be done! It also comes from a deep sense of need.

2. God loves to meet our personal needs. He gave Hannah what she asked for and more. He gave her Samuel and then He gave sons and daughters after Samuel came along.

1 Samuel 2:21 *“And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD.”*

3. God also is pleased when we pray in faith. Clearly, Hannah believed God was going to answer her requests.

4. Finally, God loves to answer prayer to demonstrate to others He answers prayer. Of course, I am thinking of Eli here. I have often wondered if Eli ever thought about this encounter with Hannah in the days in which he worked with Samuel in the temple. He was working with the answer to a mother's prayer. His name was even *“asked of God.”*

II. God's Sovereign Plan

A. There is a second person at work in this drama that we need to see. We saw how Hannah prayed, now we need to consider the Sovereign Lord of the Universe to whom she prayed.

B. When God answers our prayers it not only meets our distinct needs it also fits into God's sovereign plan for history. We clearly see this principle in the case of Samuel. The spiritual temperature in Israel was at close to an all-time low. The worship of the living God had fallen on hard times. While Eli was a faithful priest, his children were awful. They were corrupt and sinful. Listen to this description of Hophani and Phineas. Into this situation, God brought a leader. Samuel would be a man who would point Israel back to God and who would be the catalyst for a revival of proper worship of the living God. He was the answer to a mother's earnest prayer.

C. When we pray do we recognize that we are communicating with the God who can change the world?

1. Some of the men that God used to change history were men who were sustained by the prayers of their mothers. We cannot help but think of John and

Charles Wesley whom God used greatly in England. Men nurtured by the prayers of their mother Susanne Wesley.

2. Fast forward 100 years to London and to the Park Street Baptist Church. There in the pulpit stands a nineteen year old pastor who would have an impact on the world of his day that was so profound that it is still being felt today. His name, Charles Haddon Spurgeon. He too was the product of his mother's prayers.

3. God is still in the prayer answering business. Let us then be busy about the work of praying. Who knows what the history books will say about the results of our prayers!

Ephesians 3:20 *“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”*

Hymn #430 I Must Tell Jesus