

PRAY HARD PRAYERS

The Desperate Prayer - 1 Samuel 1:1-20

Suggested Memory Verse: Romans 8:26 ESV – The Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

1. 1 Samuel 1:6–7 Hannah's pain is described as ongoing and provoked year after year. How does prolonged suffering change the way we pray compared to short-term hardship?
2. 1 Samuel 1:10–11 Hannah pours out her soul before the Lord with deep emotion and honesty. What keeps us from praying this honestly when we are hurting?
3. 1 Samuel 1:12–16 Eli misunderstands Hannah's prayer and assumes the worst. How does the fear of being misunderstood by others affect the way we bring our pain to God?
4. 1 Samuel 1:11 Hannah makes a vow that reflects surrender, not manipulation. How can we tell the difference between bargaining with God and truly surrendering to Him?
5. 1 Samuel 1:17–18 Hannah leaves prayer with peace before her circumstances change. What does this teach us about what prayer is meant to do in us, even before God answers?
6. Philippians 4:6–7 Scripture connects prayer with peace that guards the heart and mind. How have you experienced peace through prayer even when the situation stayed the same?
7. Psalm 34:17–18 God is described as near to the brokenhearted. How does this truth encourage you to bring your desperation to God rather than withdrawing from Him?