

Powerful Prayers of the Bible

The Prayer of Hannah

“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 host, 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.”

1 Samuel 1: 10-11

Hannah took her pain to the Lord. Not to anyone else. She had been provoked, made fun of and constantly faced with what she did not have-children. Yet the Bible makes no mention of her retaliating, or trying to get back at Peninah. But simply weeping and taking and taking her pain to the Lord in prayer.

Hannah trusted God with her son. “I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life.” vs. 11 Are we willing to give God our children. Do we trust that He can do better with them than we can?

Hannah left her request at the altar, fully trusting that God would move for her. “So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.” We must leave our requests with God. Leaving an altar with heaviness and questions, and doubt and fear says to God, “I don’t trust you. I don’t think you are going to answer my prayer.” We must continue to seek God and ask Him to help us leave the altar free of the burden we brought! Hannah’s prayer was answered because of her faith. All prayers are answered as a result of faith!

Hannah was specific. She wanted a son and she told God that. Are we petitioning God for exactly what we desire?

Interesting fact about this prayer: *In the Talmud (compilation of Jewish teachings) she is named as one of seven prophetesses, and her prayer is in the Rosh Hashana (Jewish New Year) first-day service, exemplifying **successful petitions to God**.*

Twice, the phrase is repeated, “The Lord had closed her womb” God was directly and actively responsible for Hannah’s barrenness. God had closed her womb for his own divine sovereign purposes. Hannah’s barrenness was not due to some personal sin. She was not under judgment. God had closed her womb so as to define her priorities and faith. The Lord knew that her barrenness would prompt her to make commitments and vows that she would never have made otherwise.

What stands out about Hannah's prayer: Why is it powerful and what aspects of her prayer can I incorporate into my prayer life

- **It's heartfelt:** put your heart into your prayer and pray for what you desire. Hannah and wept in anguish
- **It's sincere:** be sincere in your prayer time. Be honest and open with God. He can be trusted and He will not judge you
- **It's serious:** take your prayer seriously. God will move on your behalf. Prayer is serious business
- **She trusted God for the answer:** trust God to move for you. It will always be your faith that moves Him

Hannah prayed: in bitterness of soul, to the Lord, while standing, silently, sacrificially, specifically with EXPECTANCY!