

## **After God's Own Heart**

Persisting in Pursuit  
1 Samuel 1:9-20

God loves you and He wants you to be near to Him. He wants what is best for you and that means following His way and chasing after His heart!

*“And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’” Acts 13:22*

What made David a man after God's heart? He wanted to know God intimately and do His will! Today we are beginning a 10-week series in 1 & 2 Samuel, called “After God's Own Heart.” Our hope is that through key narratives in these books, centered around trusting God and obeying His word, we will be stirred up toward greater faith and good works for the glory of God!

### **Background:**

- Moses leads Israel out of Egypt after 400 years of slavery.
- Joshua leads them into the promised land after 40 years of wandering.
- Israel is in a cycle, following God and then turning to other nations and other gods around them. The Judges are raised up to lead.
- There was no king in Israel yet, and everyone did what was right in their own eyes, following after their own hearts.

*“After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. And she vowed a vow and said, ‘O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.’ As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. And Eli said to her, ‘How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.’ But Hannah answered, ‘No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.’ Then Eli answered, ‘Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him.’ And she said, ‘Let your servant find favor in your eyes.’”*

*Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad. They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, ‘I have asked for him from the LORD.’” 1 Samuel 1:9-20*

**Main Idea:** People After God's Own Heart are Persisting in Pursuit

### **1) Persisting Prayerfully (9-10)**

*“There was a certain man...whose name was Elkanah. He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.” 1 Samuel 1:1-2*

*“And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat.” 1 Samuel 1:6-7*

Hannah was hurting. Provoked - to thunder and roar.

*“After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly.” 1 Samuel 1:9-10*

Notice two incredible things here:

#### **a) She got up.**

*“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:6-7*

#### **b) She went straight to God.**

*“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:14-16*

The doors to the throne room of God are wide open to you! Be persistent in your prayer time with the Lord.

*“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” Romans 12:12*

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## 2) Persisting Passionately (11-16)

*"And she vowed a vow and said, 'O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.' As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. And Eli said to her, 'How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.' But Hannah answered, 'No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.'"* **1 Samuel 1:11-16**

Hannah goes to God passionately in prayer.

*"As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard."* **1 Samuel 1: 12-13**

So pour out your soul before your God. Chase after Him!

*"Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Selah"* **Psalms 62:8**

*"You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."* **James 4:2-3**

"So that" prayers.

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## 3) Persisting Patiently (17-20)

*"Then Eli answered, 'Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him.' And she said, 'Let your servant find favor in your eyes.' Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad. They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked for him from the LORD.'"* **1 Samuel 1:17-20**

"We might expect the order here to be:

- Hannah prays.
- Hannah gets pregnant.
- Hannah is joyful, and the storms of her life dissipate.

But something different appears in the story. Instead of the order listed above, we find:

- Hannah prays.
- Hannah is joyful.
- Hannah gets pregnant." - From J.D. Greear

*"And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked for him from the LORD.'" **1 Samuel 1:20***

*"She rejoiced before she received a son...Hannah's joy is no longer dependent on obtaining a son. Hannah's joy is now found in God, the God of her salvation...Faith means rejoicing in God when our dreams are still unfulfilled and resting on God when life is still falling apart all around us." - J.D. Greear*

How long do I have to wait? You're not alone in the question.

Prophet Habakkuk:

*"O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you 'Violence!' and you will not save?" **Habakkuk 1:2a***

God's Response?

*"Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told." **Habakkuk 1:5***

King David:

*"How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?" **Psalms 13:1-2***

His conclusion?

*"But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me." **Psalms 13:5-6***

Hannah pursued God, asking for a child.

Many years later God would pursue us by another child to be born.

*"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." **Luke 19:10***

Jesus came seeking after you and He is everything you need!  
Nothing else you could desire or ask God for will ever satisfy apart from Christ.

**Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:**

- *The Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *The New American Commentary: 1 & 2 Samuel* – Robert D. Bergen (1996)
- *Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Samuel* – J.D. Greear & Heath A. Thomas (2016)
- *1 Samuel for You* – Tim Chester (2014)
- *ESV Study Bible* – Crossway (2008)
- *CSB Study Bible* – Trevin Wax, Ed. (2017)
- *Holman Concise Bible Commentary* – David S. Dockery (1998)
- *New Bible Commentary* – D.A. Carson (1994)
- *Baker Commentary of the Bible-Walter A. Elwell (1989)*