

Desperate Faith

Psa 42:1-2a As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. (2) My soul thirsts for God, for the living God...

Pictures of women

1Sa 1:1-20 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name *was* Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. (2) And he had **two wives**: the name of one *was* Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. **Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.** (3) This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, *were* there. (4) And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. (5) **But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb.** (6) And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb. (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. (8) Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? *Am* I not better to you than ten sons?" (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*. (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. (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."

Testimony of Elder Strange's Mother

“To this stately gray-eyed, black headed, barely out of her teens young woman, it was more than just a matter of life and death. It was more than her own life. In desperation she called on the Lord with her whole heart. Oh yes, I don't think I ever knew anyone quite like her. If heavens were all brass, it mattered little as far as she was concerned. You must know that when she would hit the floor on her knees with her determination, it would not take long for her to knock a hole in the brass heavens large enough to float an Aircraft Carrier Battle Fleet through it. Seldom have I known anyone who could move God, set up an earthquake in heaven and get an answer quite like she could.”

Rabid Bulldog faith – day and night, never give up, never quit, and never surrender

Mat 9:20-22 And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. (21) For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well." (22) But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.

Mar 5:25-34 Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, (26) and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. (27) When she heard about Jesus, she came behind *Him* in the crowd and touched His garment. (28) For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." (29) Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. (30) And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?" (31) But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" (32) And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. (33) But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. (34) And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."

Luk 8:43-49 Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, (44) came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. (45) And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" (46) But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." (47) Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. (48) And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

There is a faith that is so desperate that it ends up being the kind of faith that moves God. It tugs at the strings of His heart so much that He is compelled to move on your behalf.

In America, we wonder why we don't see the miracles...

Have we considered that in America because of our super abundance of materialism, wealth, high degree of medical and pharmaceutical advancement and other such related things that there really is no desperation for it. We are dependent on too many things in this life and we are not forced to be dependent on God himself.

However even in our society there does come points in times where we run out of options that we've grown accustomed and we become spiritually desperate because we have nothing else to turn to. Every tangible thing we have tried has come to naught or failed.

There are some things that God purposely puts in our lives that make it so that anything in the natural is not capable of solving it or meeting that need, and thereby He orchestrates the circumstances in our lives to point us in the direction to solve the problem we are experiencing.

Picture of Man

Jacob stole birthright, fatherly blessing to the firstborn, 14 years to marry Rachel and Leah

Gen 32:3-30 (3) Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. (4) And he commanded them, saying, "Speak thus to my lord Esau, 'Thus your servant Jacob says: "I have dwelt with Laban and stayed there until now. (5) I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight." ' " (6) Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men *are* with him." (7) **So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed;** and he divided the people that *were* with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two companies. (8) And he said, "If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the other company which is left will escape." (9) Then Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, **the LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you':** (10) I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies. (11) **Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me *and* the mother with the children.** (12) **For You said, 'I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'** " (13) So he lodged there that same night, and took what came to his hand as a present for Esau his brother: (14) two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, (15) thirty milk camels with their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals. (16) Then he delivered *them* to the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass over before me, and put some distance between successive droves." (17) And he commanded the first one, saying, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going? Whose *are* these in front of you?' (18) then you shall say, 'They *are* your servant Jacob's. It *is* a present sent to my lord Esau; and behold, he also *is* behind us.' " (19) So he commanded the second, the third, and all who followed the droves, saying, "In this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him; (20) and also say, 'Behold, your servant Jacob *is* behind us.' " For he said, "I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me." (21) So the present went on over before him, but he himself lodged that night in the camp. (22) And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. (23) He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had. (24) **Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.** (25) **Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.** (26) **And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"** (27) **So He said to him, "What *is* your name?" He said, "Jacob." (28) And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." (29) **Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell *me* Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why *is* it *that* you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there.** (30) **So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."****

Persecution brings about sorrow and suffering that you should lead you to the feet of Jesus in humility, contriteness of heart and many times repentance.

2Co 7:9-10 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. (10) **For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.**

Thorn in the flesh with Paul

2Co 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

Faith + the Word + God's timing = answered prayer or the miracle.

God has given everyman a measure of faith

Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Be it unto me according to thy word – Mary

Luk 1:33-38 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." (34) Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" (35) And the angel answered and said to her, "*The* Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. (36) Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. (37) For with God nothing will be impossible." (38) Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Mary began to sing, "A miracle can happen, a miracle can happen, a miracle can happen in this place!"

The rest is His – story!