

# Why Do We Waste Our Worship?

1 Samuel 1:1–19

Pastor Larry Hof

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Worship is often hindered when we carry burdens, bitterness, and brokenness that God intends for us to lay at His feet.

## Key Verse:

*"Wherefore... let us lay aside every weight... and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus..."*

— Hebrews 12:1–2

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## 1. Filling the Void

1 Samuel 1:1–8

**Hannah had a void that nothing else could fill.**

- Elkanah loved her but could not fix her burden.
- Human solutions cannot heal spiritual emptiness.
- Some hurts remain until they are surrendered to God.

## Notes:

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## Application:

What am I looking to for fulfillment that only God can provide?

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## 2. Last Recourse

1 Samuel 1:9–10

**Hannah finally carried her burden to the Lord.**

- Years of pain had become bitterness.
- She stopped carrying the weight alone.
- She poured out her heart before God.

**Notes:**

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**Application:**

Am I bringing my burdens to church, or am I bringing them to Christ?

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**3. Assumption Made**

**1 Samuel 1:11–16**

**Eli misunderstood Hannah's situation.**

- We rarely know the full story of another person's struggle.
- Broken people often misjudge broken people.
- Hannah refused to let another person's failure stop her worship.

**Notes:**

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**Application:**

Will I allow the opinions of others to keep me from seeking God?

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**4. Peace at Last**

**1 Samuel 1:17–18**

**God gave Hannah peace before He gave her an answer.**

- She left her burden with the Lord.
- Her countenance changed before her circumstances did.
- Faith brought hope and peace.

**Notes:**

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**Application:**

Am I seeking God's presence more than God's solution?

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**5. The Worship We Need, The Worship God Sees****1 Samuel 1:19****True worship begins when we surrender our baggage.**

- Hannah finally worshiped with freedom.
- She laid down her anger, bitterness, and plans.
- Worship became real because God became her focus.

**Notes:**

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**Application:**

What weight, bitterness, or burden do I need to leave with God today?

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**Closing Challenge****We Waste Our Worship When:**

- We carry burdens instead of surrendering them.
- We allow bitterness to crowd out God's presence.
- We focus on people more than God.
- We seek answers more than we seek Him.

**We Experience True Worship When:**

- We lay aside every weight.
- We look unto Jesus.
- We trust God's plan.
- We meet with God personally.

**"Give everything to the I AM instead of carrying the weight of who you are."**

— Pastor Larry Hof