

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Prayers of the Faithful - Hannah

Read Hannah's story in 1 Samuel 1-2.

See also: Psalm 13, Psalm 62:5-8, Job 1:20-22, Luke 22:39-46, James 4:1-10

Lessons on prayer from the life of Hannah:

1. Pour Out Your Soul.

- What burden have you been carrying silently?
- Where have you tried to “hold it together” instead of bringing your grief honestly before God?
- This week, make space to pray with honesty. Tell God what hurts, what you desire, what you fear, and what you do not understand.
- Pray daily: Lord, I pour out my soul before You. Meet me in my need.

2. Offer Your Desires Back to God.

Hannah asked God for a son, but she also trusted God enough to give that son back to Him.

- What are you asking God for right now?
- If God gave it to you, would you be willing to use it for His glory and the blessing of others?
- Ask God to purify your prayers, so that your desires are not only about what you want, but about what He can do through what He gives.

3. Trust God With Who You Love.

Hannah knew Samuel belonged to God before he ever belonged to her.

- Who are you trying to hold too tightly?
- What relationship, child, spouse, friend, or family member do you need to entrust to God again?
- Remember that every person we love is a gift on loan from the Lord.
- Pray: God, help me love them faithfully without pretending they belong to me more than they belong to You.

4. Notice the Blessings You Still Have.

Hannah's pain was real, but so were the blessings already present in her life.

- What blessing have you overlooked because you are focused on what you do not have?
- Where has disappointment made it hard for you to see God's kindness?
- This week, name both before the Lord: your longing and your gratitude.
- Give yourself permission to desire what is good, while still trusting the God who gives and takes away.

5. Worship Before the Answer Is Complete.

Hannah worshiped after surrendering Samuel to the Lord. Her prayer became praise.

- Where is God inviting you to worship even before you fully understand His plan?
- Read 1 Samuel 2:1-10 as a prayer of praise this week.
- Ask God to teach you how to rejoice not only in what He gives, but in who He is.

