

# ***FPFWC Christian Development***

***April 18, 2020***

## **Lesson #3 –The Prayer of Faith**

SCRIPTURE TEXT – 1 Samuel 1:9-20

***Key Verse- „And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.“ 1 Samuel 1:10-11 (KJV)***

### **ICE BREAKERS**

1. Why is prayer such a vital resource in times of discouragement, grief and sorrow.
2. Why did Hannah's demeanor change so dramatically after she prayed?

### **LESSON COMMENTARY –**

**1:9-10**. **Eli the priest** was sitting on a seat by the temple's doorpost when Hannah came to pray for a child. A seat was a place of honor and authority in a society where most people sat on the ground. In the ancient world a temple was the residence of a king. In Israel the temple was the Lord's earthly residence. The temple in Jerusalem was built during Solomon's reign, but **temple** here was applied to the tabernacle and the temporary structures built up around it. The words **greatly distressed** literally mean "bitter of soul." Bitterness of soul is mental and emotional anguish due to suffering and pain. Hannah's soul bitterness drove her to prayer.

**1:11**. Distressed Hannah prayed, making a **vow**. A vow is a promise made to the Lord as an act of worship. Vowing is not compulsory in worship. The making of a vow, however, is a serious matter. Once a person makes a vow, the Lord demands that the vow be honored (cf. [Dt 23:21-23](#); [Ps 50:14](#); [Pr 31:2](#); [Ac 18:18](#)). Hannah is the only woman in the Bible who is said to have made a vow to the Lord.

Hannah addressed God as the **Lord of hosts**. The first time God is called by this particular title in Scripture is in [1Sm 1:3](#). It is a declaration of the Lord's power; the **NIV** translates the term **hosts** as "Almighty." The **hosts** are armies consisting of angels, the stars, and redeemed people. The title implies that God has resources of infinite power that can never be exhausted. Hannah's prayer demonstrates her understanding of God's ability to open her womb and give her a child. The Lord of hosts was concerned about her, an obscure, afflicted woman. Hannah identified herself as the

Lord's **maidservant**, an expression of her humility before the Lord, and then she asked God to **remember** her. God remembering a person means that He will act in a special way on that person's behalf. If her request for a son was granted, she promised to dedicate him to the Lord all the days of his life.

Hannah's words **a razor shall never come on his head** bring to mind the Nazirite vow (cf. [Nm 6:1-21](#)). The phrase **all the days of his life** suggests that Samuel was to be a lifelong Nazirite (Robert D. Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel*, NAC [Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996], 69), although Tsumura notes that the Nazirite vow was normally temporary (David Toshio Tsumura, *The First Book of Samuel*, NICOT [Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2007], 118).

When a person made a Nazirite vow, during the time stipulated in the vow he did not cut his hair. As Baldwin notes, the Nazirite's uncut hair would be a sign to all that he was consecrated, set apart, to the Lord (Baldwin, *1 and 2 Samuel*, 52). Then when the time period stipulated in the vow ended, the person cut his hair. Yet Hannah promised to give her son to the Lord, not for a specified period of time, but for all his life. The razor never coming on his head symbolized lifelong consecration. Hannah understood that walking with God means receiving from Him and giving back to Him as well.

[1:12-16](#). As Hannah was pouring out her soul to the Lord, Eli sat, observing her. Hannah's prayer was not audible, but as Eli saw her lips silently forming her prayer, he incorrectly concluded that she was drunk.

[1:17-18](#). Eli offered her a word of encouragement: **May the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him**. Then she ate and she was no longer sad. Her circumstances were the same, but her discouragement evaporated. Hannah's joy transformed her face.

[1:19-20](#). Elkanah had sexual relations with Hannah **and the Lord remembered her**. In the biblical world names were more than simply a way of identifying a person. They were summary statements of a person's character or summary statements of God's work in a person's life, a means of pointing to some aspect of God's person or saving work. Hannah named her son **Samuel**, saying, **because I have asked him of the Lord**. The context implies that his name means "asked of God" (cf. [vv. 17, 20, 27-28](#)).

**Sources: Moody Bible Commentary**