

The Praying Mother

Pastor Francis Tong

9th May 2021 sermon

1 Samuel 1:6-18

- ❖ **Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her.**
- ❖ **This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat.**
- ❖ **Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"**

1 Samuel 1:6-18

- ❖ **Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord's house.**
- ❖ **In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly.**
- ❖ **And she made a vow, saying, "Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."**

1 Samuel 1:6-18

- ❖ **As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth.**
- ❖ **Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk**
- ❖ **and said to her, “How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine.”**
- ❖ **“Not so, my lord,” Hannah replied, “I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord.**

1 Samuel 1:6-18

- ❖ **Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.”**
- ❖ **Eli answered, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.”**
- ❖ **She said, “May your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.**

Hannah's unfavorable limitations

- 1. Infertility:** Root of her grievances and disappointments, a life-long limitation to withstand
- 2. Her Rival:** Complicated life situations to endure, tensions and disharmony within her family

v.2 (Elkanah) had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.

v.4 Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters.

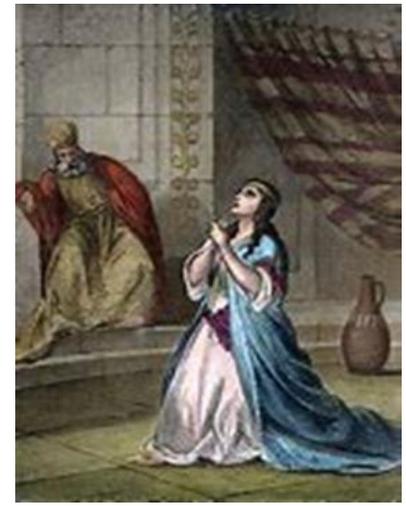
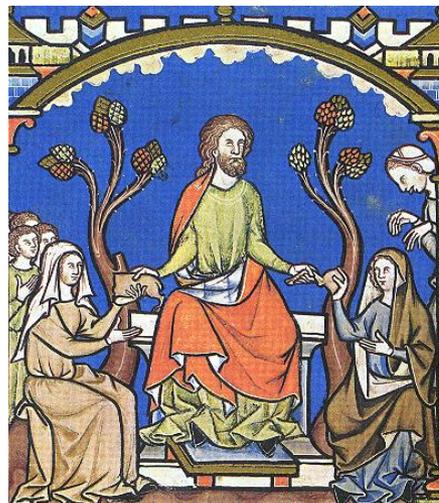
v.5 But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb.

Hannah's unfavorable limitations

- 1. Infertility:** Root of her grievances and disappointments, a life-long limitation to withstand
- 2. Her Rival:** Complicated life situations to endure, tensions and disharmony within her family
- 3. Her Husband:** Have to share her love with another woman, a discontentment to helplessly accept throughout her life
- 4. The Priest:** Face authority's misunderstanding and discouragement

Characteristic of Life Limitations

- 1. Unchangeable Constraints to live with:**
Weaknesses and inabilities in life
- 2. Undesirable Consequences to bear with:**
Forbidden from pursuits of dreams
- 3. Unfavorable circumstances to deal with:**
Constantly suffer to cope with discrepancies



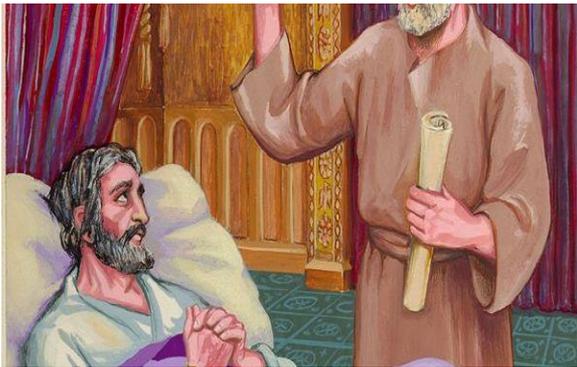
Hannah's beautiful praying attitudes

1. Solely counting on God's Mighty Power

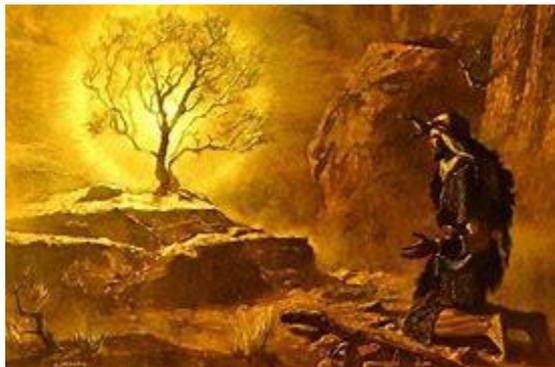
v.6: "Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb"

➤ **What is your response to God's lordship?**

Biblical figures who had experienced God's mighty power through prayers:



King Hezekiah



Moses



Apostle Paul

Hannah's beautiful praying attitudes

2. Genuinely pouring out one's soul to God



Hannah's vow in her prayers, v.11: "...I will give my son to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

- Is Hannah trying to make a deal with God for her petition to come true?**

Hannah's beautiful praying attitudes

Offering the first Born Son: “Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.” “You are to give over to the Lord the first offspring of every womb...Redeem every firstborn among your sons.” (Ex.13:2, 12-13)

Taking the Nazirite vow for her son: “During the entire period of their Nazirite vow, no razor may be used on their head. They must be holy...” (Num. 6:5)

- **Hannah is dedicating her first born son as a Nazrite to serve the Lord throughout his life**

Hannah's beautiful praying attitudes

Era of the Judges: Turmoil and spiritually dormant

“In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.” (Judges 17:6/ 21:25).

Era of Kings: A strong Nation of God to come

- **Hannah's genuine prayer touches God's heart. She shares the barrenness of her nation without new spiritual leaders to lead. It is Samuel, Hannah's son, who brought Israel into the new era of Kings**



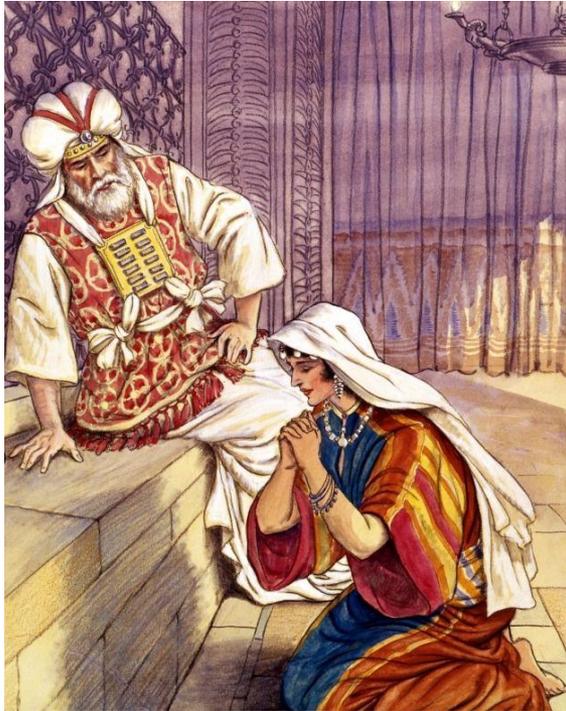
Hannah's beautiful praying attitudes

3. Faithfully looking up to God for His Will to unfold

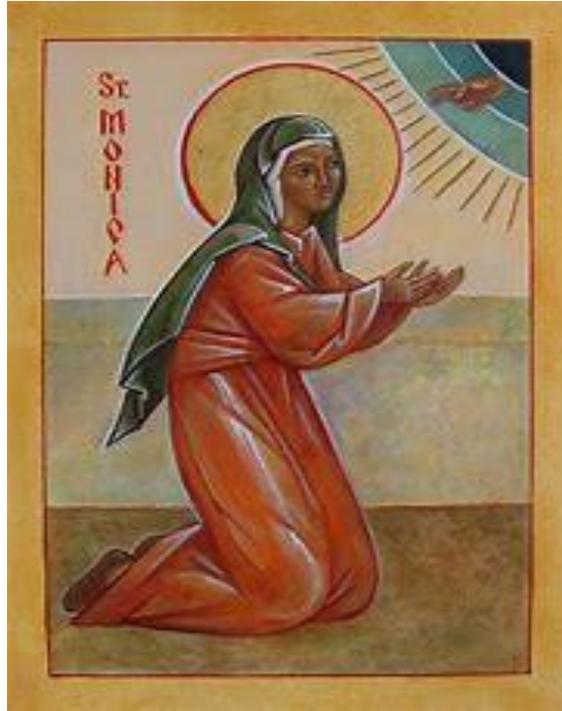
v.18: After praying, Hannah's face was no longer downcast. She was not worried about the outcome of her prayers. She went eating showing her peace in the heart.

- Do we have faith in God as we pray or only care for what we are asking from Him?**

The Spiritual Beauty of mothers in prayers



Hannah,
Samuel's mother



Monica,
St. Augustine's mother



Ameila,
Hudson Taylor's mother

Honorable tasks of a Praying Mother

1. Pray for your children

**2. Spend time to pray
with them together**

**3. Teach them to
experience God
through prayers**



Prayers of the People

1. Pray for our Mothers. Thanksgiving to God for our mothers in church as they care for their own family raising their children in God's Grace. Pray that the Lord will bless our mothers with a wonderful spiritual life, nurturing their children to grow in truth. And may God empower them in overcoming various difficulties by relying on His strength.

Prayers of the People

2. Pray for the recent social problem of increase gang shootings in the Greater Vancouver region. Pray for peace from the Lord in our everyday living and pray that He will give wisdom to our government and law enforcing officers to protect the safety of the general public and stop the spread of crime.

Church Announcements

1) Church Finance

Church offering received from 1st to 30th

April is as follow:

General Fund: \$20,054

Mission Fund: \$4,660

Building Renovation Fund: \$762

Please continue to support the church ministries and projects.

Church Announcements

2) EM Prayer Time.

EM prayer time will be held this coming Mon. (May 10) from 7:30-8:30pm online. Please check with your fellowship representatives or pastor Alice for login details.