



When We Pray as God's Servant
September 8, 2019
1 Samuel 1:9-20

"Hannah made this vow: 'O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head'" (1 Samuel 1:11).

As she prayed, Hannah wept bitterly because she was childless and felt forgotten by the LORD. Notice how she prayed. Three times she referred to herself as "Your servant." Hannah asked the LORD to give her what would help her become a more effective servant of the LORD. Notice how Hannah told the LORD that as God's servant, if He answered her prayer, she would sacrifice for Him. She promised to give the son she wanted to the LORD to serve the LORD all his life. The LORD heard Hannah's humble prayer and answered her in ways that would eventually bless millions of people. After Samuel was born, at about three-years-old, Hannah took him to the priest in Shiloh to be raised, and she would only see him once a year from that time on—when they went yearly to worship the LORD. Consider how God answered her prayer. All his life, Samuel kept the nazirite vow she made for him. Samuel never drank anything that would impair his judgment or ability to speak the word of the LORD. Samuel became the only person to ever serve as priest, prophet, and judge in Israel. God honored Hannah's prayer far beyond her expectations. Even today, Hannah's sacrificial life and prayer and the words and work of her son bless those who learn from them.

Thinking Further

1. What motivated Hannah to fast and pray?
2. Why did Eli think she was drunk? What did he say to her?
3. How did Hannah answer Eli?
4. What vow did Hannah make to the LORD?
5. What did Hannah do after she returned from praying? What did she and her husband do the next day?