



## **When We Pray as God's Servant** **1 Samuel 1:11**

*And she vowed a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head" (1 Samuel 1:11—ESV).*

Day by day and year after year Hannah prayed fervently in her home for the LORD to give her a child. Year after year, she also went with her husband, Elkanah, to worship and pray to the LORD of hosts at Shiloh. As she prayed fervently in Shiloh, people thought she was drunk, but Hannah wept bitterly because she was childless and felt forgotten by the LORD.

Notice how God saw her praying. 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 her son to Him. She would not kill her son as the pagans around them would do repeatedly until they got what they wanted. 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, every time 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 prayers, and the words and work of her son, bless those who learn from them.