

The Heart of Hannah as Revealed Through Her Prayers, Part 1

1. (a) Read 1 Samuel 1 and write down the things you learn about Elkanah, Hannah, and Peninnah. (b) Notice the advice or response to Hannah's despair from her rival in vs. 6-7; from her husband in vs. 8; and from Eli the priest in vs. 14-18. (c) What would be your advice to Hannah? (d) What scripture would you use to try and help her?

2. Memorize 1 Samuel 1:10.

3. (a) Looking over 1 Samuel 1:1-6, in what ways do you think Peninnah, Elkanah's other wife, would have been an added trial for Hannah? (b) Biblically, how should one respond when provoked by another? (Give biblical reference)

4. (a) Who else besides Hannah according to Genesis 25:21; 29:31-30:24; Judges 13; Ruth 4:13 and Luke 1:1-38, had their womb closed or open? (b) Which of these prayed for God to open their womb? (c) What do you learn about an open or closed womb?

5. (a) In 1 Samuel 1:9-18, we see that Hannah was wrongly accused by Eli of being drunk when she was praying. How does Hannah respond and what do you learn from her when being wrongly accused? (b) Who else comes to mind in Scripture that was wrongly accused? (c) What do you learn from their example? (d) How do you respond when doing an act of righteousness that is mistaken for an act of unrighteousness?

6. (a) What do you do when you are distressed over a matter that you can't control? (b) Who or what do you turn to? (c) What lessons can you learn from Hannah that will help you to respond in a righteous way when you are in "bitterness of soul"?

7. Looking at your answers from #6, what is your prayer? Write it down to share with your group.

The Heart of Hannah as Revealed Through Her Prayers, Part 2

1. (a) Read 1 Samuel 2:1-11. As you read this prayer of Hannah, write down all the attributes of God she mentions. (b) How would her knowledge of God help her in this difficult time of giving up her three year old son? (c) What contrasts do you see between 1 Samuel 2:11 and 2:12? (d) As a mother of a three year old, do you think you would struggle with leaving your three year old in the hands of Eli?

2. Memorize 1 Samuel 2:2-3.

3. (a) Read Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-11 along with Mary's prayer in Luke 1:46-56. What is similar about these prayers? (b) What is similar about these two women? (c) In what ways can we be encouraged through the prayers of these women?

4. (a) After Hannah's prayer, she returns home with her husband but without her son. What happens to Samuel next according to 1 Samuel 2:12-3:21? (b) What does Acts 3:24, Acts 13:20 and Hebrews 11:32 say about Samuel? (c) How do these facts about Samuel help to build your faith and understanding of Hannah's vow to give her son to the Lord? Extra Credit: Read the rest of 1 Samuel and make note of what events happen in this man's life.

5. (a) Hannah's prayer of praise is during the time of giving her three year old son to the Lord. Putting your feet in Hannah's shoes, do you think you could praise God during this time? (b) When you are going through a trial is it easy for you to praise the Lord? Why or why not? (c) What reminders could you take from Hannah's prayer to help you be steadfast during your next trials?

6. (a) What can parents today glean from the prayers of Hannah regarding their children? (b) Do our children belong to us or to the Lord? (c) What lessons have you as a mother learned over the years that can help other mothers to not hold too tightly to their children?

7. Write a prayer request to share with your group after studying this lesson. Include a portion of Hannah's prayer in your request.

1. How would you define "Prayer?"
2. Would you agree that it's important to prepare your heart in prayer before reading God's Word? How should we do that? What have you found to be effective as you prepare to read, study, or memorize Scripture?
3. What are other descriptive names given to God's Word and what are their benefits mentioned in Psalm 19:7-11?
4. Paul called God's words, "Sacred Writings." How did he describe these Scriptures in II Tim. 3:14-17?
5. Memorize II Tim. 3:16-17.
6. What are some Biblical steps to take in order to correct any bad attitudes before other sins would follow like anger, resentment, jealousy, unkindness, a critical spirit, etc.? Refer to these Scriptures: Psalm 32:5; Prov. 28:13; Eph. 4:28-32; Colossians 3:8-10; James 5:16; I Pet. 2:1-3; and I John 1:8.
7. Personal Evaluation: In what ways do I relate both to Martha and Mary? Am I serving others out of pride or out of love? Am I spiritually balanced in terms of "Commitment to Christ" more than "Achievement for Christ?" Write out your prayer for any conviction the Holy Spirit has given you.

1. (a) The Lord tells Jonah to go and preach the message of repentance to the wicked city of Nineveh. What are some of the sins of the city of Nineveh according to Nahum chapter 3? (Nahum was written 150 years after Jonah but their repentance was short-lived and their evil returned.) (b) Why do you think Jonah was reluctant to go to Nineveh and chose to run from God instead? (Reading chapters 3 and 4 of Jonah will help you answer this question.)

2. Memorize Jonah 2:1-2.

3. (a) What other facts do we learn about Jonah from 2 Kings 14:25; Matthew 12:39-41; Matthew 16:1-4? (b) What are the meanings of Christ's mentioning of Jonah in the Matthew passages?

4. (a) Jonah acknowledges that his afflictions are because of his disobedience. (See Jonah 1:12 and 2:1-6). Who else comes to mind in Scripture that acknowledges that their afflictions are because of their own sin? (b) What do you learn from these examples? (c) Do you think all affliction is because of sin? Prove your answer biblically.

5. (a) Jonah mentions twice in his prayer in Jonah chapter 2 that he directs his prayer towards the holy temple. Why do you think he uses this terminology? For help consider 1 Kings 8:22-30 and Psalm 18:1-6. (b) Where do you direct your prayers when you pray?

6. (a) Consider a time when you willfully disobeyed the Lord. What afflictions did you endure as a result and what lessons did you learn? (b) How does the lesson of Jonah impact you as you think about first time obedience in your life? (c) How could you use this story to teach your children the importance of first-time obedience?

7. If you were in the belly of a fish, what would your prayer be? Please write it down to share with your group.

8. After considering this lesson, what is your prayer to the Lord? Write it down to share with your group.

1. (a) Read Jonah chapter 3 and make note of any genuine signs of repentance that you see in Jonah and in the Ninevites. (b) Next read chapter 4. Who continued to show genuine signs of repentance and who did not? (c) What lessons do you learn from these two chapters about repentance?

2. Memorize Jonah 4:10-11.

3. (a) In what ways does the Lord exhibit the qualities of 1 Corinthians 13 in Jonah chapters 3 and 4? (b) In what ways does Jonah fail to exhibit the qualities of 1 Corinthians 13 in chapters 3 and 4 of Jonah? (c) Which camp do you find yourself more often in when dealing with others, the camp of our Lord or the camp of Jonah? (d) What practical things have you found helpful when dealing with situations or people that are difficult for you to love?

4. (a) Why did Jonah want to die according to Jonah chapter 4? (b) Who else wanted to die and what was their motive according to Numbers 11:1-15; 1 Kings 19; Job 7 and Philippians 1:21-25? (c) Do you think there is ever a righteous reason(s) for wanting to die? Prove your answer biblically.

5. (a) What similarities do you see between Jonah in Jonah 4 and the older son in Luke 15:11-32? (b) What words would you use to describe Jonah as you consider what is written in the book of Jonah?

6. (a) What valuable principles have you learned from these two lessons we have had on the prayers of Jonah? (b) What have you learned about praying when you are disobedient and when you are angry? (c) What changes would you like to see in your own life as a result of these two lessons? (d) What is your biblical plan of action for change?

7. (a) Looking over question number 6 again, what is your prayer request? (b) Please write one to share with others in your group.

1. (a) According to 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 what are some of the reasons God did not answer Paul's prayer?
(b) What do you think his "thorn in the flesh" was?

2. Memorize 2 Corinthians 12:9.

3. (a) What revelations were Paul referring to in 2 Corinthians 12:7? (For a hint read 2 Corinthians 12:1-6.)
(b) How would these revelations be a temptation for pride in Paul's life?

4. (a) When considering the following passages, Exodus 3; 1 Samuel; 1-2 Chronicles 20; Psalm 54; Jeremiah 1:4-10, answer the following questions: Who had a "thorn in the flesh"? (b) What was their particular "thorn"? (c) What was the response of each one? (d) What do these passages along with the passage in 2 Corinthians 12 teach you about those "thorns" in your own flesh? (e) What scripture do you cling to when God doesn't answer *your* prayers?

5. (a) Who else in Scripture prayed three times for something according to Matthew 26:39-44? (b) What was the request? (c) Did God answer their prayer? (d) How does the Matthew passage along with 2 Corinthians encourage you when God doesn't answer your prayers as you had hoped He would?

6. (a) What prayers have gone unanswered in your life? (b) How have you found God's grace to be sufficient even though your prayer is not answered? (c) How have you found His strength to be perfect in your weakness? (d) How do these facts encourage you when God does not answer your prayers?

7. (a) What are some of your "thorns in the flesh"? (b) Have you prayed persistently like Paul? (c) Have you considered what some of the reasons might be that God is not answering?

8. What is your need after studying this lesson? Persistence in prayer? Trusting more in God's grace and strength? Rejoicing in your trials? Please come with a request so we might pray for you.

The Real Prayer of Jabez

1. (a) As you read 1 Chronicles 4: 9-10 make note of the requests Jabez makes in his prayer. (b) What was his reason for praying these requests?

2. Memorize 1 Chronicles 4:10.

3. (a) What kind of character did Jabez have according to 1 Chronicles 4:9? (b) Why is this important as it relates to his prayer? Use Scripture to back your answer.

4. (a) How does Genesis 3:16 help you understand what Jabez's mother states in 1 Chronicles 4:9? (b) Do you think the pain that women bear in childbirth is physical pain only? Prove your answer from the Word of God.

5. (a) Jabez addresses God in his prayer as the God of Israel. What are some other names for God that have been used when addressing Him in prayer according to 2 Chronicles 20:6; Ezra 9:5; Psalm 80:1; Psalm 145:1; Daniel 9:4; Matthew 6:9; John 17:25 and Acts 7:59? (b) What favorite titles of God do you use when addressing Him in prayer? (There are many other titles for God used in prayer that are in the bible that I didn't list.)

6. (a) One of Jabez's requests is for God's hand to be with him. What might this signify according to Exodus 15:6; 2 Samuel 24:14; Psalm 16:11; Psalm 119:173; Isaiah 41:10 and John 10:28? (b) How have you seen the hand of God with you during your lifetime?

7. (a) Honestly evaluate your prayers this week. Do you pray to God as if he were a doting parent or grandparent or do you pray knowing that He is God and He knows best? (b) What are your motives when asking God for certain things in your personal life? (c) After considering these questions along with the others, come with a prayer request to share with your group.

Solomon's Prayer of Dedication for the Temple

1. Skim over 2 Samuel 7:12-17 along with the first 5 chapters of 2 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles 6:1-11 and write down any events in the life of Solomon that led him to pray a prayer of dedication for the temple of God in 2 Chronicles 6:12-42.

2. Memorize any verse from this prayer.

3. (a) According to 2 Chronicles 7, what happened after Solomon prayed this prayer of dedication?
(b) Did God answer his prayers? (c) How does this prayer along with the events which followed encourage you to pray?

4. Compare this prayer to the one in 1 Kings 8:22-53. What is different and what is the same?

5. (a) What does Solomon pray at the end of his prayer according to 2 Chronicles 6:42? (b) How does this differ from how most in our age end their prayers? (c) What does this teach you about prayer?

6. (a) What petition does Solomon repeat many times in this prayer of dedication? (b) Why do you think he asks for this certain thing?

7. (a) If you were to pray a prayer of dedication for the church you attend, what things would you include?
(b) What other things or events might we desire to dedicate to the Lord? (c) Have you ever prayed a prayer of dedication for anything? (d) If so, what did you dedicate to the Lord?

8. Is there anything or anyone you would like to dedicate to the Lord? Write a prayer of dedication for that thing or that person.

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1. (a) Read Nehemiah chapter 1. What events prompted Nehemiah to pray? (b) What are the various aspects of his prayer? (c) What aspect of prayer does he devote the most time to? (d) Why is this important? (e) When you pray, what aspects of prayer do you devote the most time to?

 2. (a) According to Nehemiah chapter 2, what events took place after Nehemiah's prayer? (b) Did God answer his prayer? (Read over Nehemiah chapter 6 to find out.) (c) What type of opposition was there for those trying to rebuild the wall? (Skim chapters 4-6 for the answer.) (d) What do you learn about answered prayer from the events which took place after Nehemiah's prayer?

 3. (a) Skim over the remaining chapter of Nehemiah and write down any facts you learn about this man. (b) How does his life encourage you?

 4. Memorize Nehemiah 1:4.

 5. (a) Who else comes to mind from scripture that turned to God during troublesome times? (b) What do you learn from their examples?

 6. (a) When you get troubling news, like Nehemiah did, what is usually your first response? (b) Do you call out to God in prayer as he did?

 7. (a) What has your heart been burdened about this day? (b) What can you learn from the life and prayers of Nehemiah that will help you as you face this difficulty?

 8. As you contemplate questions 6 and 7 write a prayer request to share with your group.

1. (a). Read Psalm 84. What are the names the Psalmist uses for God in Psalm 84? (b) When you pray, do you use different names when addressing the Father? (c) What is the benefit of this?

2. Memorize Psalm 84:1-2.

3. (a) Psalm 84 was written for the Sons of Korah. Look up I Chronicles 9:19, 26:1-19, and II Chronicles 20:19. What were the responsibilities of the Sons of Korah according to these verses? (b) How does that fit with what the Psalmist says in Psalm 84?

4. The Psalmist describes the Lord's tabernacles as lovely in Psalm 84:1. Read Revelation 21 and 22 to see how John describes heaven. What things are there that are lovely?

5. (a) What do the following verses tell you about the strength of the Lord? What comfort does this give you, especially in times of weakness? Psalm 18:39; Psalm 28:7-8; II Cor. 12:9-10; Phil. 4:13; Rev. 5:12; 12:10.

6. (a) If you could have anything your heart desires, what would it be? (b) How does it compare to Psalm 84:2 and 84:10?

7. (a) As a pilgrim on this earth, would you say that your longing is for heaven and for God? (b) Does your Heavenly Home occupy your thoughts? (c) How can we become more "heavenly" minded? See Colossians 3:1-4.

8. What would be your prayer request after meditating on Psalm 84? Please write it down to share with your group.

The Prayer of a Burdened Man

1. (a) Read Numbers 11:10-16. What is Moses' complaining about to the Lord in this prayer? (b) What has happened to bring him to the point according to Numbers 11:1-10? (c) Read the rest of Numbers 11 and note how the Lord answered Moses' prayer.

2. Memorize Numbers 11:10.

3. (a) Who else was burdened with people in his life according to Psalm 55? (b) What were his complaints? (c) What was his solution to the problems and the difficult people in his life?

4. (a) Read Psalm 106 and note all the rebellious acts of the children of Israel. (b) Even though God answered their requests for meat and other things, what happened to their soul according to verse 15? (c) What principle(s) can you glean for your own personal prayer life from Psalm 106:15? (d) What should we do when life is overwhelming, and people and circumstances are a burden? See Psalm 27:14; Psalm 37:5; Psalm 56:3-4; Matthew 6:25; Philippians 4:6-7.

5. (a) Who else asked the Lord to kill them besides Moses according to 1 Kings 19, Job 6:8-10, and Jonah 4? (b) What advice did God give to each of these individuals? (For the answer to Job read Job 40:1-7).

6. (a) Who else in Scripture was burdened with people and ministry according to 2 Corinthians 11:28-29? (b) What was his response to these burdens in 2 Corinthians 12: 9-10? (c) How does his attitude compare to Moses' attitude? (d) What advice would you give to Moses based on the Scriptures?

7. What are the burdens which you are carrying this day? What have you done about them? What is your prayer to the Lord, the Great Burden Bearer.