

THE FAITH OF HANNAH

Possibly one of the greatest “Moms” in the Bible is Hannah, the mother of Samuel the prophet. (1 Samuel 1:1-2:11)



Elkanah had two wives, one named Hannah and the other named Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none “because the Lord had closed her womb” (1 Samuel 1:6-7). Year after year, when Hannah went up to the house of the Lord in Shiloh, Peninnah provoked her and made her life unbearable.

Instead of entering into strife with her rival, Hannah poured out her heart to God. The intensity of her environment made her determined to go all the way. Instead of asking and praying for herself, Hannah made an extreme vow to the Lord that if He would give her a son, the child would be entirely His! (1 Samuel 1:11)

When God opened her womb and gave her a son, she named him Samuel meaning, “Heard by God.” True to her name, Hannah (“Favored by God”) remembered her vow to God and followed through, as difficult as that may have been!

What can I learn from Hannah’s life?

1. **There are times when God seems to do things contrary to His nature.** This is only to accomplish something of greater importance. Always remember 1 Corinthians 10:13.
2. **Use hardships to springboard you towards the Lord!** Hannah was living in a tormenting environment and turned frequently to the Lord.
3. **Hannah prayed a prayer of extreme sacrifice:** to give her son to the Lord to be an instrument God would use for His glory. Don’t be afraid to sacrifice for the Lord’s sake and when He answers your prayer, remember your vow to Him.
4. **God answered her prayer above and beyond her greatest dreams** (Ephesians 3:20-21). Her son, Samuel, would grow up to become one of the greatest prophets and Judges of Israel who anointed Saul and David, a man after God’s Heart, as Israel’s first two Kings!

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