

A MOTHER'S PERSISTENT PRAYER REWARDED

1 Samuel 1:1-11ff

Introduction: All of us know about prayer. We pray for ourselves, we pray for friends, we pray for strangers, we pray for all kinds of situations. Sometimes we see our prayers answered quickly, sometimes later, sometimes not at all. There was a woman in the Old Testament who prayed and prayed and prayed and God finally heard her prayer and answered it. Her persistence in prayer is an excellent example for us today.

I. THE WOMAN, HANNAH HAD NO CHILDREN, SHE WAS BARREN

1. All her friends had children, even her husband's other wife had children, and Hannah was deeply distressed.
2. Her depression and being distressed upset her husband Elkanah greatly.
3. Her husband's other wife (Peninah) who had children, made fun of Hannah and was jealous because their husband seemed to care more for Hanna than for her.
4. There was the belief that God had direct dealings in child-bearing and if a woman had no children, it was a sign of sin in her life.
 - Sadly today, people take the lives of their unborn child, some unborn have been found in trash cans.

II. HANNAH PRAYED FOR A CHILD

1. She went yearly to the temple at Shiloh and prayed and prayed for God to give her a child.
2. She was constantly in prayer at home for a child.
3. Finally Hannah entered into a covenant with God:
 - For a son.
 - She would return the son to God for God to use.
4. People still try to make agreements/covenants with God.
5. Hannah prayed so intensely, so frequently at the temple that the priest, Eli thought she was drunk.

III. GOD HEARD HER PERSISTENT PRAYER

1. God kept His part of the covenant/agreement and gave Hannah a son.
2. Hannah named her son "Samuel" meaning "asked of God."
3. God has made covenants with others through the ages, Adam, Abraham, Noah, Israel, David and with us - if we believe in His Son, Jesus, He will give to us eternal life.

IV. HANNAH TOOK SAMUEL TO THE TEMPLE

1. When her son was three (3) years old, Hannah took him to the temple.
2. Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord.
3. Hannah, tearfully, kept her part of the agreement/covenant.
4. Try to imagine Hannah's feelings as she took her small child to the temple, knowing she would be leaving him there. Now try to imagine her feelings as she walked out the temple doors leaving her son there where he would remain the rest of his life. What a Mother!

CONCLUSION:

1. Persistence in prayer is always rewarded by God.
2. Hannah was blessed by God by having three sons and two daughters.
3. We are Christians because of somebody's persistent prayers.
4. Unknown to many, their lives have been extended because of persistent prayers.
5. It is always so with God. Be persistent in prayer and always there will be reward.
6. *"...ask and it shall be given, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you..."*
"...ye have because ye ask not..." (Matthew 7:7)
7. Hannah is a wonderful example of being persistent in prayer and in being a Mother who keeps her word with God.