

Light and Life

Hannah's Prayers

Elkanah had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none (I Sam. 1:2).

Even back then, polygamy was never according to God's pattern (Gn. 2:24), nor did it often go well. The relationship between Elkanah's wives was greatly strained because of his relationship with them. Peninnah had children, and she "provoked Hannah severely to make her miserable, because the Lord had closed her womb" (I Sam. 1:6). Peninnah may have been jealous because, though Hannah was barren, Elkanah loved her and gave her a double portion compared to what he provided for Peninnah and her children (I Sam. 1:5).

In describing her mental state, the Bible tells us that Hannah wept and would not eat (I Sam. 1:7). "She was deeply distressed" and "wept bitterly" (v 10). She spoke "out of great anxiety and vexation" (v 16). She prayed with such emotion she appeared drunk, "pouring her heart out to the Lord" (vss 13-15).

Her first prayer was this: "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" (I Sam. 1:11). Without knowing whether God would grant her request, Hannah "rose early in the morning and worshiped" (v 19). The Lord remembered her, and Samuel was born (vss 19-20).

Hannah's second recorded prayer is found in I Samuel 2:1-10. After all God had done to help her, this second prayer had not one mention of herself or of little Samuel! Rather, it was all about praising God!

How often do we remember the prayers God has answered for us and think to offer a prayer of praise, focused only on Him? May we learn to pray like Hannah!

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

Points to Ponder

"Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So also, one hundred worshipers meeting together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship."

— A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

We've come a long way to be so stupid. 1821 - A baby's heartbeat was first heard in utero. Today, we still struggle to distinguish the difference between a mother's body and a baby's. 1905 - Stevens and Wilson discover that gender is biologically coded into each cell. Today, we act as if we cannot know what gender is and believe that it is changeable. 1931 - The electron microscope was invented, giving us our first glimpse inside amazingly complex cells. Today, we still believe the theory of evolution (which Darwin said would be disproved by this discovery). 1953 - Watson and Crick 'decode' DNA and see how much information is stored inside each of our 37.2 trillion cells. Today, we still cannot see intelligent design. 1965 - Lennart Nilsson takes the first photo of a baby in the womb. Today, we struggle to see the beauty and value of life. 1980 - It became known that babies in the womb feel pain. Today, we stubbornly hold that abortion is a good and moral thing.

"It is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?" (1 Co 1:19-20).

- Chadwick Brewer

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Morning Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

Not everyone who says
to me, 'Lord, Lord,'
will enter the kingdom
of heaven, but the one
who does the will of
my Father who is in
heaven. - Jesus

Downtown Church of Christ

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There are no fire
escapes in hell.

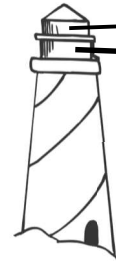
Mark 9:47-48

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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User Error

I have a love-hate relationship with my phone. It has become an indispensable part of my life (calendar, communications, contacts, maps, reminders and more). How did we ever get along without them?

But it is also an obnoxious bully. More than once I forgot to tell it to be quiet during a funeral, and of course, it announced its presence – loudly. It will auto-correct text messages to make me appear illiterate. And did I really ask the wife of a preacher friend if she would like to share a hotel room with me at an upcoming preachers' conference? Yes. Yes I did (had stored their contact info incorrectly).

I can blame it all on the phone – but in all of these cases the phone was not the problem. It was user error. I'm the one who neglected to turn off the ringer, or to proofread the text. I'm the one who listed the preacher and his wife under the same contact (his). All of it on me.

And so it is with sin. Like Adam and Eve and King Saul and the one-talent man and countless others, we can blame someone (or something) else for our own shortcomings. But God didn't buy the excuses then – and He's not buying them today. If it's user error, own up to it – and **read the manual!**

- WKing

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: KFletcher, Swims, JMarshall, RStarr, MiBader

Shut-ins: Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Susan Wiese, Virgil Carter, ADosier

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

THANKS! – Thanks to everyone who made VBS & Youth Lectures a success!

Too many to name – but know that your efforts are appreciated!

SENTENCE SERMON – The world says, "Follow your heart"; Jesus says, "Follow Me." (Jn 12:26). Big difference.