

What Is Your Heart's Desire?

It seems like everywhere you turn these days mothers are discouraged, broken hearted, and almost defeated. As a wife, mother, or daughter, we are not the head (or the authority) of the home, but we are the heart. And to see what is happening to our family sometimes seems to be more than we can bear. I don't know your family's situation. I don't know what kind of problems or heartaches have come your way. I don't know what the desire of your heart is for your family or life. But I do know the one who can help you with whatever you may be going through.

PRAYING EARNESTLY BELIEVEING

But we as Christians take this subject so lightly; yet the Bible gives us many examples of it. Many writers have written about it and many preachers and teachers have spoken about it. But still it is the last thing that we do and that is "PRAYING." The second thing that we don't do is "PRAYING EARNESTLY BELIEVEING" that the Lord will help us. But Psalm 37: 4 – 5 says, "Delight thyself in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." In this brief study we will look at mothers and daughters with desperate family needs for their life and their family. How they handled their situation, and what the outcome was for their families and their lives.

The first lady I would like to look at is Hannah, who was childless. We find her story in 1st Samuel 1: 1 – 20.

Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite: And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there. And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions: But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb. And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb. And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat. Then

said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons? So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth. Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee. And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto. Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him. And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad. And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her. Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD.

1Sa 1:1-20

Verse 2 states that, “Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.” Then verse 6 tells us that Peninnah was her adversary. “And her adversary also provoked sore, for to make her fret, because the Lord had shut up her womb.” For you to understand what this statement meant and how much of an adversary Peninnah was to Hannah you will have to understand the laws of that day.

Therefore, it is necessary that we take a brief look at the Old Testament Law and understand a few key points.

1. According to Scofield’s Notes, **Exodus** is the record of redemption, and **lays the foundation of the cleansing, worship, and service of a redeemed people.** **Leviticus** gives the details of the walk, the worship, and the service of that **people.** In Exodus God speaks out of the mount to which approach was forbidden; in Leviticus He speaks out of the tabernacle in which He dwells in the midst of His people, to tell them that which befits His holiness in their approach

to, and communion with, Himself. **The key word** through the Book of Leviticus is **holiness**, occurring 87 times. **The key verses** are found in **Chapter 19: 1 - 2**, “**And the Lord spake** unto Moses saying, **Speak unto all** the congregation of the children **of Israel**, and say unto them, **Ye shall be holy**: for I the Lord your God am holy.”

2. Therefore, if they were going to walk with God, they were going to be holy and he told them how to do it. With that in mind, let's look at Leviticus 18 – 20 briefly. Here He is talking about the relationship and walk of God's earthly people. (If you really want to know what God has to say about the different sins mentioned in these chapters, then you need to read Chapters 18 – 20 for yourself.) In Chapter 18, He talks about seeing and uncovering our nakedness, as well as, others. Then in verses 24 – 30 the Bible says:

Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you: And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants. Ye shall therefore keep my statutes and my judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations; neither any of your own nation, nor any stranger that sojourneth among you: (For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled;) That the land spue not you out also, when ye defile it, as it spued out the nations that were before you. For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them shall be cut off from among their people. Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance, that ye commit not any one of these abominable customs, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: I am the LORD your God.

Lev 18:24-30

In Chapter 19 He talks about fearing mother and father, keeping the Sabbaths, idols, eating that which is an abomination, reaping harvest, stealing, defrauding your neighbor, to love your neighbor as thyself, marking your body, prostitutes, wizards, strangers, just judgment and balances.

Then in Chapter 20 He talks about the judgment of the people who give themselves over to perverted wickedness, such as the adulter and adultress and uncovering the nakedness of another, by mostly having them put to death, by cutting them off from among their people and bearing their iniquity, or by only two accounts making them die childless, which is found in Leviticus 20: 20 – 21:

And if a man shall lie with his uncle's wife, he hath uncovered his uncle's nakedness: they shall bear their sin; they shall die childless. And if a man shall take his brother's wife, it is an unclean thing: he hath uncovered his brother's nakedness; they shall be childless.

Lev 20:20-21

This is the kind of people she was being associated with because of her bareness. Now let's look at who the Bible says was Hannah's adversary? Who does the Bible say is our adversary? (I Peter 5: 8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because you adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour.") The Devil used an animal in the Garden of Eden and he used Peninnah right here. Now, let me ask you this question. Who, or what, is giving you the most heartache? Who do you think is behind it? The people we see the most day in and day out and the people who are the closest to us usually hurt us the most.

Can you imagine how hurt she was to be childless, how much hurt she suffered from the community, and how much hurt she suffered from Peninnah? The Bible gives us a glimpse of just how hurt she was from all this. In verse 6 we see that her adversary provoked her to make her fret because the Lord had shut up her womb. In verses 7 and 8 we see how she wept and she wouldn't eat because her heart was grieved. And we also see that her husband did not understand for he asked her why she was acting this way for he was better to her than ten sons. Can you imagine how alone she felt at this point? The one person that she should have been able to share everything with disregards her feelings and assumes that things should satisfy her need for children. In verse 10 the Bible says, "She was in bitterness of soul and wept sore." In verses 15 and 16 she said to Eli the priest, "I am a woman of sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord. Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto."

How many of us have been at this point, or are you at this point right now? Have your problems ever gotten you to the place that you were so burden down until your heart was sick and sore? In deep despair cried out and asked God why, just like Hannah did. Lord I'm a good wife. I'm faithful to attend the services. I do what I can. I don't understand. Why? Why does God allow these things to be?

Listen to what our Lord said:

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isa 55:8-9

Remember Job who lost his family and all that he had.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Job 1:6-12

Remember the man who was born blind.

And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

Joh 9:1-3

Remember Paul and his thorn in the flesh that he asked the Lord to remove thrice.

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

2Co 12:7-10

Remember the words of Peter.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

1Pe 5:6-7

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

1Pe 5:10

What do we do? What did Hannah do? We find the answer in Psalms 37: 4 – 5. Look at the verses and the five points mentioned here and compare them to what Hannah did and what the Lord did.

Psa 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Psa 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass.

1. **Delight thyself in the Lord---Even though she was hurting, she stayed faithful to his word, work, and worship.**

1Sa 1:3 And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh.

1Sa 1:4 And when the time was that Elkanah offered,

1Sa 1:7 And *as* he did so year by year,

1Sa 1:19 And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah

2. **Commit thy way unto the Lord---She prayed unto the Lord.**

1Sa 1:9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh,

1Sa 1:10 -11 And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

3. **Trust also in him---She prayed believing.**

1Sa 1:15 have poured out my soul before the LORD.

1Sa 1:16 for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.

1Sa 1:17 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant *thee* thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

1Sa 1:18 And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more *sad*.

She believed, or trusted, God and the man of God. She changed her countenance before God did anything for her; she had peace. She believed that God was either

going to give her what she asked for, or he was going to take that feeling away from her and satisfy her soul with something else.

This is where we, as Christians, fail. She took all those things she had bottled up inside her and poured them out to the Lord. We take our bottles to the altar and tell him all about what's inside, but we don't pour them out. We load them up and take them whithersoever we go, never leaving them nor forsaking them. In other words, we don't trust that he can do what he said in his word that he will do. But the Bible says in Psalm 62: 8, "Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us." Then the Bible says in Psalm 126: 5 – 6, "They that sow in tears shall reap joy. He that goeth forth weeping, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

E. M. Bonds said this about prayer, "Prayer cannot be retired as a secondary force in this world. To do so is to retire God from moving in our lives. It is to make God secondary. The prayer ministry is an all-engaging force; it must be all-engaging to be a force at all. Prayer is the sense of a need for God and a call for God's help to supply that need. How we estimate and place prayer is how we estimate and place God. To give prayer a secondary place is to make God secondary in life's affairs." God doesn't play second fiddle. We limit God when we don't give him first place in our lives. And he is to be first in our lives because he is worthy and he is able.

4. And he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
5. And he shall bring it to pass.

1Sa 1:19 - 20 and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her. Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, *saying*, Because I have asked him of the LORD.

The devil would like for us to believe that the Lord has forgotten about us. But the Lord always steps in the middle of all our troubles and trials and says: And the Lord remembered (our name). Wherefore it came to pass.

Notice our verse here that the word "desires" is plural. Hannah asked for a man child, singular. But look at the rest of the story. Hannah received her petition (vs. 19 – 20), kept her vow (vs. 24 – 28) and offered her praise (2: 1 – 10), but God had not given his entire portion (2: 18 – 21). You can't out give God. God gave her five more children, and five is the number of grace. Hannah went home with grace. Matthew Henry once said, "Prayer is heart's ease to a gracious soul."

Next, I want to look at the woman with an issue of blood, who was very sick and no doctors could help her. We find her story in Mark 5: 25 – 34.

And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Mar 5:25-34

The problem was that the woman had an issue of blood. (Verse 25) Therefore, according to The Law (Lev. 15: 25 – 31), she was to be declared unclean and all that she touched became defiled. She was to be separated from, not only, her family but all of the children of Israel. According to verse 26, she had been to doctors, suffered many things, and spent all that she had, but nothing could be done for her.

1. Delight thyself in the Lord-----Then, the Bible tells us in verse 27 that she heard of Jesus and came. She wanted to see the one she had heard about do all those miracles.
2. Commit thy way unto the Lord-----Then, also in verse 27 the Bible says that she pressed behind the crowd and touched the hem of his garment. She committed her problem to him even though she knew she was at great risk for doing so because she was unclean, unworthy, and unfit. She knew the Law.
3. Trust also in him-----In verse 28 we see that she trusted him completely. The Bible says, “For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. What faith she had? The Bible says in Mat 17:20, “And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”

4. And he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
5. And he shall bring it to pass.

Mar 5:33 But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

Mar 5:34 And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Not only was she healed of her plague, but she was restored unto fellowship with her family and Israel for Jesus called her “Daughter” and said, “Go in peace.” She didn’t have to fear what they were going to do or what Jesus was going to do unto her because of what she did and what was done in her. Jesus spoke those Blessed Words of Comfort to her and all was well.

Finally, I want to look at Jairus’ daughter, who was sick and died. Have you lost children either physically or spiritually? We find her story in Mark 5: 21 – 23 and 35 – 43.

Mar 5:21-42 *And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea. And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live. While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further. As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe. And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James. And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly. And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying. And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment. And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.*

1. Delight thyself in the Lord-----Mark 5: 21 – 23a tells us that no sooner had Jesus gotten off the ship, a ruler of the synagogue came unto him and fell at his feet.

2. Commit thy way unto the Lord-----Mark 5: 23 Jarius said, “My daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.”
3. Trust also in him.....Mark 5: 35 – 36 tells us that the little girl died. But Jesus turned to him and said, “Be not afraid, only believe.”

You hear people say this all the time about children who are lost spiritually: “Why do you keep going down there praying? You know it’s not going to do any good.” “They’re too far gone; you’re just wasting your time.”

But for children who die physically we often forget, like the people here, the words our Lord spoke here. “...the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.” For the Christian, death is only good night down here and hello in heaven.

“Be not afraid, only believe.”

4. And he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
5. And he shall bring it to pass.

Mark 5: 41b – 42a says, “Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years.”

But I believe he did more for this family than just raise their daughter from the dead. I believe the Lord put this family back together again. Look with me at these verses.

Mar 5:25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

Mar 5:26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

According to these verses, she had this issue of blood for twelve years, and was, at one time, well off, for she spent all that she had on doctors but to no avail.

Mark 5: 42 states that the damsel was twelve years old.

Then, we find in Mark 5: 37 and Luke 8: 51 that he did not allow the crowd to follow him, only Peter, James, John the brother of James, and her mother and father.

According to the surrounding verses in both of those books the crowd was laughing them to scorn. Why did he not ask the mother to believe? We already know that Jesus told Jarius, “Be not afraid, only believe.” I believe that the woman with the issue of blood was her mother and Jesus had already told them to believe. They had

already experienced his miracle in her and believed he could do the same for their little girl.

Now, let me ask you this, what is your family going through? What is your hearts desire for your family and your life? The Bible says in Psalm 46: 1, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

You hear people say statements like this all time: “I know he can, but why would he do something like that for me?” “I know that happened in their day, but I don’t believe he works like that today.” I want you to know that he does.

What I have shared with you here came from my own life experience with the Lord. If it were not for the grace that God gives I would have given up along time ago. From 1988 until February of 1991, I was at one of the lowest times I have ever been in my life.

February 13, 1988, I lost my best friend, who was also my first cousin, in an accident. And shortly after her death I experienced family problems that tore me apart. The summer of 1988, the only Church Family I had ever known split. Then, from fall of 1988 until February of 1989, I was being stalked at school, church, and work. Also in February of 1989, my Grandpa died a painful death with cancer at home. The family problems got worse and the church problems began to quite down a little. Then, in July of 1990, I had my first wreck. August of 1990, two months before my 21st birthday, my biological mother came back and wanted to see my brother and me. I had not seen her in 19 years. Then, because of decisions I made, it created more family problems. Psalm 27 became so real, I believe I knew how David felt. September of 1990 I had my second wreck. And finally on February 13, 1991, the anniversary of my friends death, I felt that I couldn’t go on any further. All the things that had happened, and that was still going on, started turning in mind all over again. I had to have some relief.

Then, one night while I was reading my bible, the Lord showed this to me that I have shared with you. All I could do was exactly what Hannah did. I had carried all this around all bottled up inside for so long I couldn’t carry it any further. Before this all happened in 1988, I was 5’10”, weighed 120lbs, and healthy. By 1991, I weighed between 105 and 110lbs, was sick a lot, and began to get migraines regularly.

If there was ever anything I have learned it would be this:

1. The Greatest Weapon, the Greatest Shield, the Greatest Privilege a Christian has is PRAYER. My Pastor says this, “If you can move the hand of God you have all you will ever need in this life.”
2. If there was ever anything that we needed to let our friends, our family, and our children know, it is that when they have a problem prayer does change things.
3. Teach our children to pray about they’re needs, problems, and wants.

- 4. Show our friends, family and children by examples in our lives that prayer changes things.**

For if they can see God operating in our lives, then, one day, when God deals with their heart it may cause them to want what we have. It may cause them to remember how you handled your problems and want what you have to help them with their problems. But, if we set back and don't show, tell, and teach them about prayer, we may lose the only things on earth we can take to heaven with us our friends, our family, and our children.

After I prayed to God and poured out all those bottles inside my heart, the Lord began to work all those problems and circumstances out. And since that time, I got happily married in March of 1995 and have seen times that I had to rely on this devotion again and again. I know from experience, you don't have to carry your burdens around with you. You can bring your burdens to the Lord and leave them there. And take home Grace, sufficient for whatever you need---just like Hannah did, just like the woman with an issue of blood did, just like Jarius' daughter did, and just like I did.