

Day 18

“May your servant find favor with you,” she replied. Then Hannah went on her way; she ate, and no longer looked despondent” (1 Samuel 1:18, CSB).

Hannah was barren for many years. Her longing for a child was marked by daily grief and intensified by ridicule and misunderstanding. Scripture tells us her suffering caused deep inward turmoil, so much so that her silent prayers were mistaken for drunkenness. Yet Hannah did not withdraw from the presence of God. She brought her pain honestly before Him, pouring out her soul with humility and trust.

In the opening chapter of 1 Samuel, we are given a vivid picture of persevering prayer. Hannah goes to the Lord, makes her request known, and entrusts the outcome to Him. The Bible says after praying, “she ate, and no longer looked despondent” (1 Samuel 1:18). Her circumstances had not yet changed, but she rose from prayer with renewed peace because she placed her hope not in a guaranteed outcome, but in a faithful God.

Hannah’s persistent prayers shaped her perspective. She understood that prayer is not a tool to control God, nor a test of His love. Often, we fall into one of two errors: We assume that praying harder will force God’s hand, or we conclude that unanswered desires mean God is withholding goodness from us. Hannah avoided both extremes. She prayed without entitlement, surrendering her deepest longing to the Lord’s purposes.

Her vow reveals this posture clearly. If God granted her a son, she would return him to God’s service. Hannah desired God’s gift, but even more, she desired God’s glory. She trusted that the Lord would accomplish His purposes through granting her request or sustaining her through waiting.

Perseverance in prayer does not always change our situation immediately, but it does transform our hearts. Like Hannah, we are invited to pray in faith, confident that He sees, hears, and acts according to His perfect will.

Where are you clinging to an outcome instead of trusting God’s purposes as you pray?

Lord, teach me to pray with humility and perseverance, trusting Your goodness and glory even when answers are delayed.