

Overcoming the Enemy

Lessons from Hannah

I. Heart Condition

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

²³ Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Philip. 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And **the peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, **will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

John 14:27 (NIV)

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. **Do not let your hearts be troubled** and do not be afraid.

A. Personal responsibility for security

B. Transcends understanding ---faith

C. Troubled hearts & fear

II. Hannah's Response

1 Samuel 1:10-18 (NIV)

¹⁰ In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the LORD. ¹¹ And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." ¹² As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³ Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk ¹⁴ and said to her, "How long will you keep on getting drunk? Get rid of your wine." ¹⁵ "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD. ¹⁶ Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief." ¹⁷ Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him." ¹⁸ She said, "May your servant find favor in your eyes." Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.

1 Samuel 1:21-28 (NIV)

²¹ When the man Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfill his vow, ²² Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, "After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the LORD, and he will live there always." . . . they brought the boy to Eli, ²⁶ and she said to him, "As surely as you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD. ²⁷ I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. ²⁸ So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there.

A. Hannah's Response

1. Bitterness of soul

Psalms 34:17-18 (NIV)

¹⁷ The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. ¹⁸ The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Proverbs 18:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ A man's spirit sustains him in sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?

2. Wept much & prayed

Psalm 126:4-6 (NIV)

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negev. ⁵ Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.

⁶ He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.

Psalm 6:6-10 (NIV)

⁶ I am worn out from groaning; all night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears. ⁷ My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes. ⁸ Away from me, all you who do evil, for the LORD has heard my weeping. ⁹ The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the LORD accepts my prayer. ¹⁰ All my enemies will be ashamed and dismayed; they will turn back in sudden disgrace.

3. Received & gave

Galatians 5:19-21 (NIV)

¹⁹ The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

James 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

B. Samuel

1 Samuel 2:21 (NIV)

²¹ And the LORD was gracious to Hannah; she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy **Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.**

1 Samuel 2:26 (NIV)

²⁶ And the boy **Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with men.**

1 Samuel 3:1-5 (NIV)

¹ The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions. ² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ **Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am."** ⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

C. Hannah's Prayer

1 Samuel 2:1-4 (NIV)

¹ **Then Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. ² "There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. ³ "Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the LORD is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed.**

Prayer

Heavenly Father I glorify your name today. You are worthy of praise and exaltation. May your deeds be known throughout the earth. I lift my voice to rejoice and worship you. May the joy of the Lord fill my life. May your strength be made evident in my presence. I trust you with all my days and yield to your wisdom and provision. Grant me an understanding heart and the strength to fulfill your purposes. In Jesus' name, amen.