

Hannah: A Godly Mother

1 Samuel 1-2 (NKJV)

- Hannah was the husband of Elkanah.
- Elkanah had two wives—Hannah and Peninnah—something that was culturally acceptable during that time, especially if your first wife was not able to have children.
- So you would take another wife who then would bear your children.
- It's not God's original intent for marriage, so with it came a lot of strife, jealousy, and division.
- Peninnah would have children with Elkanah, but Hannah was barren.
- And Peninnah would badger Hannah because she was childless.
- But Elkanah had a greater love for Hannah than he did for Peninnah.
- And so when he would go to worship at the tabernacle each year, and offer sacrifices, he would offer up a double portion for Hannah because of his great love for her.
- Hannah's name meant "favored" or could be translated to mean, "grace."
- Instead of engaging in a battle with Peninnah, Hannah would take it to the Lord instead.
- She would truly live up to her name and set a great example for mothers to come.
- And it's here that we find from the life of Hannah, from this woman of grace, the characteristics of a godly mother.
- There are five that we get from this text...

1. A godly mother is a woman of prayer (1 Samuel 1:10, 12, & 15)

- One of the greatest gifts that you can give to your children is to be a woman of prayer.
- It can change the course of their lives.
- It also sets an example before them of how to deal with the storms of life.

I really do believe I am the product of praying parents. I can still remember being places where there was a great temptation to compromise, and literally feel the Holy Spirit convicting me, and knowing that behind it all was a praying mother.

- Women that pray will raise kids that pray.
- There may be a break in there somewhere but inevitably your kids have seen how prayer works, how God answers, and even that they are products of either praying parents or a mother who was committed to prayer.
- Their lives are an example of how prayer works.
- And so in time, the Lord has a way of getting us to the place where we become like our parents—they prayed and so do we.

“...pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 (NKJV)

“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:14-16 (NKJV)

“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” James 5:16 (NKJV)

“Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:12-13 (NKJV)

- Hannah was a woman who prayed when she was going through tough times, when she was being badgered for things she was not in control over, she sought the Lord.

2. A godly mother is committed to holiness (1 Samuel 1:12-16)

- A godly mother is going to be committed to holiness even when those around her are not.
- When Eli looked over at Hannah and saw that she was moving her lips but not saying anything, he thought she was drunk.

- Why would he think that?
- I believe this had to do with the day that they were living in.
- It was a very low time for Israel—spiritually they were asleep, the priesthood was corrupt, Eli’s sons were wicked and did not care about the things of God, the Word of the Lord was not flowing into Israel, and they were going through a spiritual famine.
- It promoted a sinful, lazy, compromising way of life.
- And so Eli sees Hannah and he probably thinks: *Here is another drunken woman making her way to my office.*
- But not Hannah!
- When Eli approached her with this accusation she quickly answered, “I am not a woman that gives herself to wine. Don’t consider me a wicked woman. I am not a drunk, but a woman that has great sorrow in my heart. I have come to pour my heart out to the Lord.”
- She was a woman that was set apart, a woman that was not going with the flow.
- I’m sure that’s why Elkanah loved her so much—there was a character about her life.

“Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.” Proverbs 31:30 (NKJV)

- That’s what Elkanah was doing by offering a double portion at the tabernacle.
- He was praising her because she was a woman with character.
- Peter, when speaking to the women who were unequally yoked, said...

“Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.” 1 Peter 3:1-4 (NKJV)

- If your spouse is not leading you in spiritual things, if he is not being the priest of his home, then you have a great opportunity to lead the way for him.
- Do it by praying for him, do it by having a gentle and quiet spirit, don't use words that would promote a battle between you—be smarter than that. Let him see it in your life, let him watch it in the way you love him and bless him.

3. A godly mother is a woman of faith (1 Samuel 1:17-18)

- When Eli spoke the Word of the Lord to her, she believed.
- She chose the faith to believe the Word of God.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

- A mother that is a woman of faith is going to speak things into the lives of their children that others won't.
- They won't find it from their teammates, they don't usually find it in their teachers from school, nor will they find it in their peers.
- But a mother of faith is going to show her kids what it means to believe in the promises of God's Word.

“...casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7 (NKJV)

- What does it mean to cast? It means to throw it out.
- It does not say reel it back in.
- A woman of faith will cast those anxieties of being a mom of the Lord, and will show her children how to do the same.
- You're modeling before them what it means to stand on the promises of His Word.

“I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt

first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.” 2 Timothy 1:3-5 (NKJV)

4. A godly mother is devoted to her kids (1 Samuel 1:19-23)

- She did not take Samuel to the tabernacle before he was weaned—she was committed to him during those infant years to care for him.
- There are going to be so many different seasons in children’s lives.
- And each of them is going to go through them differently.
- Having a mother who is committed to them during those times is so vital and is something that’s getting harder and harder to do in an economy that demands two incomes.
- But it’s important to have a mother who is devoted to walking through the infant and toddler stages, when they enter school, when they are struggling with their peers, when they are unsure of themselves in the high school years—a godly mother who is devoted to walking through those years with her kids.
- Even when it causes her to put on hold those things she has dreams of doing in her own life.

5. A godly mother is committed to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:11, 24-28)

- Hannah had prayed, “Lord, if You will grant me a son then I will commit him to You. I will give him to You to use for Your purposes.”
- And after he was weaned, she took him to Eli the priest; thus, fulfilling her commitment to the Lord.
- She knew that Samuel was not hers, but the Lord’s.
- The word “lent” in verse 28 is in the Hebrew, “returned.”
- In other words, she was returning what she had been given stewardship over.
- The Lord had a purpose for Samuel—not just to fulfill something in Hannah, not just to give her the joy of being a mother, but that he would be an instrument for the Lord.
- You see, Eli the priest had two sons that were very evil—they did not seek the Lord nor did they care for God’s people.
- 1 Samuel 2:12 says “...the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the Lord.”

- The Lord would not allow them to serve His people, so God used Samuel.
- 1 Samuel 2:18 says, “But Samuel ministered before the Lord, even as a child, wearing a linen ephod.”
- This was a robe that his mother would make for him each year when she came up to offer sacrifices.
- Samuel’s heart was on the things of God and God took notice.
- In 1 Samuel 2:34-35, God would raise up Samuel, a man who understood the heart and the mind of the Lord, and would do all that the Lord asked of him.
- This all started in the heart of his mother.
- Mothers, you have been given a very important platform, a ministry by the Lord, to raise your children up in the ways of the Lord.
- I really believe this is something that is slowly disintegrating in our culture today—even in the church.
- And I believe there needs to be a rededication to being a godly mother.
- A recommitment to one of the most important platforms that God has given you—to raise your kids to love and serve the King of kings, to live for the kingdom, and to find out their place in eternity.
- It’s the greatest gift you can give to them, and to the Lord.

“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward, like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one’s youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed...” Psalm 127:3-5 (NKJV)