

Morning Thoughts: Faithful Prayer

The word faithful means to wholeheartedly believe or to be loyal. Hannah was a great example of both these definitions of faith. She prayed faithfully to God, the only one who could deliver her and grant her the deepest desire of her heart. She also made an oath with God that she faithfully kept when the time came. She was an honorable woman of faith.

Struggling In Prayer with Grace (1 Samuel 1:10, 15-16, 20)

Hannah did not have an easy time praying about having a child. The Bible says she was deeply grieved. She did not allow her overwhelming feeling of loss, pain and discouragement keep her from pouring herself out to God in prayer. She battled her feelings of failure and wrestled with God in prayer.

Q: How do we handle deep discouragement, pain and loss? Is our first place we run for comfort, confidence and guidance at the foot of God in prayer?

Note: If we can endure faithfully in prayer through the painful times God will not only carry us through but lift us up in due time.

Butterfly: Let's remember this gorgeous creature and allow it to teach us the importance of struggling in prayer. When a butterfly first comes out of the cocoon it has to wrestle and struggle to break through before it is set free. If we were to "help it out" by opening the cocoon it would not have the ability to fly. The very struggle it must face is what allows it to fly freely. Let us change our perspective and see our struggles as opportunities to grow closer to God and be strengthened spiritually.

God is Faithful (1 Samuel 1:11, 24-28, and 1 Samuel 2:21)

Hannah made an oath before God. She promised that she would give away her only son, if God granted her request, and He did. Psalm 15:4... "who keeps his oath, even when it hurts..."

Hannah was a woman of her word. After she weaned her only son, her answered prayer, the deepest desire of her heart; she brought him to the temple to be raised by Eli the priest. GOD HONORED HANNAH'S FAITHFULNESS

God went above and beyond Hannah's request. He not only gave her the one son Samuel who later became one of the first prophets of the nation. He gave her FIVE more children!!! (3 boys and 2 girls)

Focus for the Day:

Study out the beginning of Samuel's journey in 1 Samuel 3 for you personal time with God