



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“Drunk in Prayer”

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“Drunk in Prayer” refers to the event where Hannah was found in prayer by the Priest Eli (1 Sam 1:12-18). He suspected Hannah to be drunk with wine; but in truth, she was praying through her heart with lips moving inaudibly. She prayed with a broken heart due to the pain of not bearing children, and the oppression she received because of it. The Priest Eli, realizing her brokenness, announced that God granted her prayer. Soon, Hannah gave birth to Prophet Samuel. Therefore, through her silent prayer wherein she poured out her soul to God, she received God’s blessing.

1. Hannah’s prayer of desperation moved God’s heart. Hannah was desperate to have a child. She was treated harshly by the second wife of her husband Elkanah. In her desperation, she made a Nazarite vow to the Lord. She spoke with her heart and poured her concerns to Him. Her brokenness appealed to the Lord (Ps. 51:17).

2. Hannah did not harbor offense. Her situation never led her to blame anyone, not even God. There were plenty of instances when she could have been angry at someone, but she did not let her feelings interfere with her prayer. She didn’t let Satan use those offenses.

3. How do we stop or break the spirit of offenses like Hannah? Today, offenses are prevalent in families, friends, communities, politics, and in churches. The spirit of offense is more than a feeling; it is demonic, and we must overcome it. How can we tell if the spirit of offense is present?

- The spirit of offense causes division. It breaks unity; it conquers and divides. Unity is extremely important in our pursuit of God and His calling; it is good and pleasant to be united with Him (Ps.133:2). The spirit of offense stirs hatred and anger. Hannah’s ordeal did not

breed division, hatred, or anger. Instead, she continued to pray to God.

- She worshipped in silence. She poured out her concerns through her heart.
- She laid her burden on the Altar of God. All our burdens are received by God (Mt. 11:29). Our lives will not suffer from the weight of our problems once we offer them to God.
- She sacrificed her desires. She offered her desire to have a child to the Lord. She gave back Samuel, who was one of the greatest prophets. It was an extravagant way of worship.
- She carried a prophetic gift. Her son Samuel was the last and the greatest judge of Israel. He anointed the first king of Israel, Saul. And he carried on to the last king of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

Hannah’s prayer life reflected on how strong her spiritual life was. She overcame the different offenses she received from different sources. Our spiritual life must be inspired by the likes of Hannah who never wavered in her spiritual life. While the spirit of offense is always present in our midst, we must follow the ways of Hannah. God will always receive all the hurt and pain that we receive as long as we offer them in silence through our prayers.

Reflection:

1. What are the ways that you offer your hurt to God?
2. How do you forgive the person/s or events that offended you?
3. How will you break down the spirit of offense?

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