

Hannah's story as a testament to God's faithfulness, demonstrating the power of faith, hope, and honor in trusting God amidst life's trials.

"I have a great need for Christ: I have a great Christ for my need." — Charles Spurgeon

I want to look at the inspiring story of Hannah, a woman of faith, a woman of prayer, a woman of promise.

Her story, found in the first chapter of 1 Samuel, is a testament to the power of faith, the promise of hope, and the honor that comes from trusting in God.

Hannah's story speaks of a prayer answered, a promise fulfilled, and an honor bestowed.

It's a story that mirrors all moms in so many ways.

Most moms have felt like Hannah at some point in their lives.

felt the sting of unfulfilled desires, the agony of unanswered prayers, the despair of deferred hope

Yet, like Hannah, moms are called to hope, to trust, and to honor God in all circumstances.

Her story is a living testament of God's faithfulness, a beacon of hope for all who trust in Him.

It's a story that shows us that even in our darkest moments, when all hope seems lost, God is there, listening to our prayers, ready to turn our mourning into dancing, our sorrow into joy.

Moms, are you ready to meet Hannah?

Are you ready to walk with her, to learn from her, to draw strength from her faith, hope from her story, and honor from her obedience?

Let's open our hearts, our minds, and our Bibles, and let Hannah's story unfold...

I. Hannah's Heartache

Hannah is a woman of deep faith, yet a woman marked by sorrow.

She was married to a man named Elkanah, who loved her dearly, yet her heart was heavy with sadness.

She was childless in a time and culture where children were seen as a blessing from God, a sign of His favor.

Her barrenness was a source of great distress, a silent pain that echoed in the chambers of her heart.

Hannah lived in a society that measured a woman's worth by her ability to bear children.

The inability to conceive was often seen as a curse, a sign of divine disapproval.

This societal pressure, coupled with her personal desire for a child, made her situation even more difficult.

The Bible tells us that her rival, Peninnah, would provoke her and irritate her because the Lord had closed her womb.

This constant provocation, this incessant reminder of her barrenness, was a bitter pill to swallow.

But Hannah's story doesn't end in despair.

It doesn't end in sorrow. It doesn't end in defeat.

In the midst of her pain, Hannah did something extraordinary. She turned to God. She poured out her heart before Him.

She didn't hide her pain, she didn't mask her sorrow, she didn't pretend to be okay.

She was real, she was raw, she was authentic.

She brought her pain to God, the only One who could truly understand, the only One who could truly help.

Hannah's prayer was a cry from the depths of her soul.

It was a plea for understanding, a plea for help, a plea for a miracle.

She didn't just ask God for a child, she made a vow.

She promised to dedicate her child to the Lord, to give him back to God.

This was a significant commitment, a profound act of faith.

It showed her deep trust in God, her willingness to surrender her deepest desire to Him.

The Bible tells us that God heard Hannah's prayer.

He saw her tears, He felt her pain, He understood her heartache. And He answered her prayer.

He blessed her with a son, Samuel, who would grow up to be one of the greatest prophets in Israel's history.

Hannah's story is a powerful reminder that God hears the prayers of a mom, He sees your tears, He feels your pain.

And in His perfect timing, in His perfect way, He answers.

Hannah's story is a testament to the power of prayer, the beauty of faith, and the grace of God.

It's a story that encourages moms to bring your deepest desires, your greatest fears, your most profound pain to God.

It's a story that reminds moms that even in your darkest moments, when all hope seems lost, God is there, listening to your prayers, ready to turn your mourning into dancing, our sorrow into joy.

II. Hannah's Hope

In the midst of her heartache, Hannah found a glimmer of hope.

This hope was not in the form of worldly possessions or human comfort, but in the steadfast love and faithfulness of God.

Hannah's hope was rooted in the promises of God, in His unchanging character, and in His unfailing love.

This hope was not a fleeting emotion or a temporary relief, but a deep-seated assurance, a firm conviction, a steadfast anchor for her soul.

The first glimpse of this hope is seen in Hannah's prayer.

1 Sam 1:11 - *"And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head."*

Hannah is pouring out her heart to God, expressing her deepest desires, her deepest longings.

But what is striking about this prayer is not just the raw emotion and the heartfelt plea, but the unwavering hope that undergirds it.

Hannah's prayer was not a desperate cry for help, but a confident declaration of faith.

She was not begging God to fulfill her desires, but was affirming her trust in His promises, in His faithfulness, in His love.

This hope was not just a personal conviction, but a communal affirmation.

1 Sam 1:18 - *"And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad."*

Hannah's hope spilling over into her community, into her family, into her daily life.

Her hope was not a private matter, but a public testimony.

It was not a silent prayer, but a loud proclamation.

It was not a hidden treasure, but a shining light.

Her hope was not just for her, but for all who were around her.

This hope was not just a temporary relief, but an eternal promise.

1 Sam 2:1 - *"And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation."*

Hannah's hope transcending her immediate circumstances, her present sufferings, her current struggles.

Her hope was not confined to the here and now, but extended to the there and then.

It was not limited to the temporal but encompassed the eternal.

It was not restricted to the earthly but embraced the heavenly.

The Hebrew word for "hope" used in these passages is "tikvah", which means "cord", "expectation", or "hope".

This word is used in several other passages in the Old Testament, including Jeremiah 29:11, where God says, *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

In this context, "tikvah" conveys the idea of a confident expectation, a firm assurance, a steadfast hope.

It's not a wishful thinking or a vague longing, but a sure and certain hope, grounded in the promises of God.

III. Hannah's Honor

As we continue to walk alongside Hannah, we find ourselves drawn to the honor that she embodies.

This honor is not something she sought for herself, but rather, it was bestowed upon her by God.

It was an honor born out of her faithfulness, her unwavering trust in God, and her commitment to honor Him, even in the midst of her pain and heartache.

Hannah's honor is seen in her response to her dilemma.

She was a woman who found herself in a situation that was beyond her control.

She was barren, unable to bear children, a circumstance that was considered a disgrace in her society.

Yet, despite her predicament, Hannah chose to honor God.

She chose to trust in His goodness, His faithfulness, and His ability to turn her situation around.

In her dilemma, Hannah did not resort to bitterness or resentment.

Instead, she turned to prayer.

She poured out her heart to God, expressing her deepest desires, her fears, and her frustrations.

In doing so, she demonstrated a deep reverence for God, a recognition of His sovereignty, and a trust in His ability to intervene in her situation.

God never denies us our hearts desire except to give us something better.

Hannah's story is a testament to this truth.

Her honor was not in her ability to bear children, but in her unwavering faith in God, her steadfast hope in His promises, and her unyielding commitment to honor Him, regardless of her circumstances.

As we consider Hannah's honor, we are also drawn to the way she responded to God's answer to her prayers.

When God granted her a son, Hannah did not hoard this blessing for herself.

Instead, she dedicated her son, Samuel, to the Lord.

This act of dedication was a powerful demonstration of Hannah's honor.

It was a testament to her faith, her gratitude, and her commitment to honor God with all that she had.

In dedicating Samuel to the Lord, Hannah was not only honoring God, but she was also setting an example for us.

She was showing us what it means to honor God with our blessings, to dedicate our lives to Him, and to trust in His goodness, even when we don't understand His plans.

So, as we reflect on Hannah's honor, moms, be challenged to honor God in your own lives.

Be inspired to trust in His goodness, to dedicate our lives to Him, and to honor Him with all that we have.
Remember that your honor is not in what you have or what you can do, but in your relationship with God, your trust in His promises, and your commitment to honor Him in all circumstances.

In the words of the Apostle Paul, "*Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God*" (1 Corinthians 10:31).
May this be our prayer, our desire, and our commitment as we seek to honor God in our lives.

Mom's, as we close our time together today, let's take a moment to reflect on the story of Hannah.

Her faith, her hope, her honor, and her unwavering trust in God's promises.

It's a story that resonates with you, a story that inspires you, a story that challenges you to trust in God's faithfulness, even in the face of adversity.

Hannah's story is a testament to the power of prayer, the beauty of faith, and the promise of God's love.

Moms:

It's a story that reminds you that God hears your prayers, that He sees your tears, and that He is always ready to turn your sorrow into joy.

It's a story that encourages you to keep praying, to keep hoping, to keep trusting, and to keep honoring God in all circumstances.

As we go forth from this place, **Ladies.... carry Hannah's story in your hearts.**

Remember her faith, her hope, her honor, and her trust in God's promises.

Remember that God is always faithful, that He always hears your prayers, and that He always fulfills His promises.

Ladies..... remember that you, like Hannah, are called to live lives of faith, hope, honor, and trust in God.