

Setting Your Heart

on the

Kingdom



1 SAMUEL

Prayer That Moves the Heart of God

(The Principle of Fervent Prayer)

1 Samuel 1

It gradually grew worse from year to year. The shame of Hannah's barrenness was destroying her life. Then, when her husband took another wife in order to give him children, her embarrassment turned to utter rejection. Year after year, they would go to the house of God in Shiloh to sacrifice, but even there the incessant mocking of the "other wife" provoked Hannah to bitter weeping. Finally, she could no longer bear the pain. In *absolute desperation*, she made her way to the Temple and *poured out her soul* to the Lord. With *total humility* she cast herself on the mercies of God in *intense prayer*. What Hannah did next is significant...*she made a solemn vow to the Lord!* "If You would give Your maidservant a son," she sobbed, "I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life." God heard that prayer and gave her a son...one of the greatest prophets that Israel ever knew. Dedicated from the womb and called as a child, none of Samuel's words ever failed. It was he who set forth the first king of Israel and organized his kingdom. And it was Samuel who saw divine destiny in a shepherd boy named David and anointed him to be the greatest king of Israel... *all because of the desperate prayer of a brokenhearted woman who got "serious" with God!*

How serious are you about your need? How desperate are you to get an answer from God? Don't think that the casual prayer will ever produce miracles. No, my friend...it was the *fervent prayer of Elijah* that stopped the rain (James 5:16-17). It was the *tenacity of Jacob's plea to God* that transformed him into "Israel" (Gen. 32:24-30). Perhaps, like Hannah, you've suffered rejection and ridicule because of a situation beyond your control. It may be an illness, a broken heart, or grief over the lost soul of a loved one. Whatever the need, God is waiting to see how serious you are. *Our God is passionate toward you* (John 3:16)...*and He requires a passionate response from His people* (Mark 12:30). Until you pour out your soul with heart-felt weeping and fasting and by making a covenant vow to the Lord, you'll never move the heart of God. Remember, fervent prayer produces "Samuels"...mighty men and women who influence the world for God's Kingdom.

Next Week: The Kingdom of God in 2 Sam. & 1 Chron. ...The Death of an Anointing!

