

Relentless Praying

Text: I Samuel 1

Message:

Doctrine/Teaching:

Response (Know, Attitude, Action):

Introduction:

- Mom – in explaining magnetism, when asked for a 6-letter word beginning with “M” that picks things up, the class said “mother” instead of “magnet”.
- There was a mom who was used to clean up a mess not of her own making, Hannah.
- I Samuel 1 – she was in the middle of a mess, offered substitutes, showed up for prayer, prayed relentlessly, returned her answer to God, endured adversity, and believed God.
- She shows us how God wants us to pray relentlessly.

I. God wants us to pray in the middle of the mess.

A. Two aspects of mess.

1. Spiritual – I Samuel 3:1-3 (no prophet, no vision, no fire) [1Sa 3:1-3 NASB] 1 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD before Eli. And word from the LORD was rare in those days, visions were infrequent. 2 It happened at that time as Eli was lying down in his place (now his eyesight had begun to grow dim and he could not see well), 3 and the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was,
2. Personal – I Samuel 1:3-8 (bareness, corrupt priests, ridicule)

B. Does your mess push you away from prayer or toward pray? Are you willing to pray to see an answer?

C. [Jas 5:13, 16 NASB] 13 Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. ... 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may

be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

D. Seek God in prayer more than you wear yourself out in worry.

II. God wants us to pray while refusing substitutes.

A. I Samuel 1:8 – sweet substitute. [1Sa 1:8 NASB] 8

Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep and why do you not eat and why is your heart sad? Am I not better to you than ten sons?"

B. We will get offered short cuts, substitutes, well meaning excuses, and temporary reprieves.

C. Develop a no compromise attitude when it comes to seeking God’s will in your life.

III. God wants us to pray by showing up.

A. I Samuel 1:9 – show up. [1Sa 1:9 NASB] 9 Then Hannah rose after eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the temple of the LORD.

B. No one can do your praying for you.

IV. God wants us to pray with rage.

A. I Samuel 1:10 (v7) (v12) (v15,16) [1Sa 1:7, 10, 12, 15-16 NASB] 7 It happened year after year, as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she would provoke her; so she wept and would not eat. ... 10 She, greatly distressed, prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. ... 12 Now it came about, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli was watching her mouth. ... 15 But Hannah replied, "No, my lord, I am a woman oppressed in spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have poured out my soul before the LORD. 16 "Do not consider your maidservant as a worthless woman, for I have spoken until now out of my great concern and provocation."

B. Dake calls this one of the best definitions of prayer.

C. Lenard Ravenhill – Why Revival Tarries – “NO man is greater than his prayer life. The pastor who is not praying is playing; the people who are not praying are straying. The pulpit can be a shop window to display one’s talents; the prayer closet allows no showing off.

Poverty-stricken as the Church is today in many things, she is most stricken here, in the place of prayer. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few prayers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere.”

D. Mark 11:24 – “desire” [Mar 11:24 NASB] 24

"Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.

E. Pray with an attitude aggression, passion and necessity.

V. God wants us to pray for His glory.

A. I Samuel 1:11 – A vow to God. [1Sa 1:11 NASB] 11 She made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head."

B. She did not seek to aggrandize her position, but to glorify God’s Kingdom.

C. Luke 17:9-10 - [Luk 17:9-10 NASB] 9 "He does not thank the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he? 10 "So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.'"

D. Develop an attitude to live for God. Surrender the goals of your life to the will and purpose of God.

VI. God wants us to pray while enduring adversity.

A. I Samuel 1:12-16 (misjudged, challenged) [1Sa 1:12-16 NASB] 12 Now it came about, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli was watching her mouth. 13 As for Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips were moving, but her voice was not heard. So Eli thought she was drunk. 14 Then Eli said to her, "How long will you make yourself drunk? Put away your

wine from you." 15 But Hannah replied, "No, my lord, I am a woman oppressed in spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have poured out my soul before the LORD. 16 "Do not consider your maidservant as a worthless woman, for I have spoken until now out of my great concern and provocation."

B. Ephesians 6:10-12 - [Eph 6:10-12 NASB] 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

C. Love people and keep pressing into God.

VII. God wants us to pray believing He will answer.

A. I Samuel 1:17-18 - [1Sa 1:17-18 NASB] 17 Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him." 18 She said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

B. Philippians 1:19-20 – keep the celebration going! [Phl 1:19-20 NASB] 19 for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

C. Rejoice in faith!

Conclusion:

- Get ready God is bringing your Samuel (answered by God)
- Be relentless in prayer in your mess, refuse substitutes, show up, pray with rage, make it about God, endure adversity, and believe God is answering your prayers.