

## **Praying with Confidence.**

### **The Story of *Hannah*. 1 Samuel: 1**

- Sometimes it seems that **God** has put us on hold.
- He may be doing some great things in our lives, but our most cherished request is not being granted.
- We know He's still there, but He is simply not responding
- **Hannah** of the Old Testament knew what it was like to feel rejected by God. Hannah's distress lasted for years even though she was a devout and faithful woman. **She prayed and prayed. Yet God didn't answer.**
- In the house of God she wept so hard that the priest accused her of being drunk.
- In God's time, God gave Hannah a son. She became the mother of Samuel (vv.19-20), who in time would become a priest and prophet who would change the course of history.
- In God's time, Hannah's sense of spiritual **rejection** was changed to **joy**.
- In time, Hannah's **bitterness** was turned to **joy**.
- Her experience shows that what counts is not whether God at that moment is answering our prayers, so much as that we are humbly waiting on His wisdom and timing.
- We should pay attention, not to our **emotions** but to the wisdom of **God**.

#### **1. Confidence in God's Outlook.**

We can't see the whole picture.

- It is only when we get to heaven that we will see the whole picture. Then we "*shall know just as [we] also [are] known*" (1 Cor. 13:12).

#### **2. Confidence in God's Wisdom**

**Confidence in God's Timing**  
**Confidence in God's Goodness**

- (James 4:3). *3When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*

– "*Men always ought to pray and not lose heart*" (Luke 18:1)

### **3. Confidence in What He Has Promised.**

- ***The Promise of God's Peace.*** When we bring our concerns and burdens and cares to the Lord, He will give us peace.
- ***The Promise of God's Protection.*** Our minds and hearts will be protected when we pray. We can rejoice in the protection we know He gives us.
- ***The Promise of God's Presence.*** Paul expressed it this way: "***The God of peace will be with you***" (Phil. 4:9). In our storms, when we feel the most alone, prayer reminds us of God's presence. We can rejoice in His promise to be with us wherever we may be.