



## **A Hannah Heart: How to Have Victory on your knees- podcast**

**By Beth Jones**

Hi, welcome to Tablet of My Heart. This is Beth Jones your hostess and I am so glad to have you here with me today. Today we're going to have a great show. We'll be talking about one of my favorite stories in the Bible that is dear to my heart – about Hannah and her son Samuel. The title of today's podcast is "A Hannah Heart: How to Have Victory on Your Knees."

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Let's go ahead and get started. Prayer.

Like I said, Hannah and her son Samuel are one of my favorite stories in the Bible. I love Hannah and Samuel is one of my favorite prophets in the Bible. He is an inspiration to us for prayer, judging righteously, hearing God's voice clearly and prophesying the word of the Lord – speaking God's word boldly. I want to read out of 1 Samuel 1 and then share what I believe God wants me to share with you today.

Read 1 Samuel chapter 1 to verse 20

What I love about the story of Hannah is that Hannah is the picture of an everyday woman. She was nobody special, nobody great, but just a woman who had a heart after God. I relate a lot to Hannah. She had a passionate, deep desire in her soul. Nobody else, nothing else would satisfy that desire. She wanted a son, her own child.

I relate to her too because she was greatly afflicted by her enemy. The enemy, Elkanah's wife Phinehas, taunted Hannah because she had children and Hannah couldn't conceive. Back in those days it was important to have children. It was a sign of blessing. It was the way the family inheritance passed down through the generations and a good name. To be barren was seen as a curse.

Hannah's name means "favor", "grace." Are you a woman in need of God's grace and favor? Do you want to have a heart of God's favor like Hannah did?

Hannah's enemy, the other woman, was Phinehas and her name means "pearl." Phinehas was used by Satan to taunt and discourage Hannah.

Elkanah was a man who was from the mountains of Ephraim. The meaning of the Hebrew name Ephraim is debated. One meaning from Jones' Dictionary of Old Testament Proper Names and NOBS Study Bible is from Genesis 41:52 and it means "For God has made me fruitful" and another is "Two fold increase" and "doubly fruitful" and "I am twice fruitful." I thought that was awesome! That comes from the website <http://www.abarim-publications.com/Meaning/Ephraim.html>

So at the beginning of this story we see that Hannah is a woman just like us. She has needs. She has problems, and struggles. She has things in her heart that she is wanting. And where does she go with these needs and desires?

Hannah's husband Elkanah can't help her or fix it, as good as he is. He even offered her double portions trying to show her how much he loved her. But it wasn't enough.

Her friends couldn't help her, as great as women friends can be. Don't you know sometimes we can go to our girlfriends, go to lunch or coffee with them and have a good cry. A lot of times we feel so much better after doing that, but sometimes even that isn't enough.

Hannah even goes to the temple and has a good cry and there the priest Eli watches her and thinks she has been drinking. She even goes to church and doesn't find any comfort there. How many times have you and I done that – gone to church and didn't feel any better because nobody noticed us or cared or else they misjudged you or gave you pat answers for your problems?

But when Eli rebukes her for being drunk, she doesn't get all huffy and walk off offended. Instead she takes a chance and tells him in verse 15 that she has sorrow in her heart. She asks him not to think of her as an ungodly woman but to understand that she's in great grief – she wants a baby.

I'm sure many of you who have never been able to have a child or have miscarried can relate to this. I have several friends who have miscarried and it was a really painful thing for them. They have told me how empty it made them feel. Nothing could take the pain away. It would be even worse for someone who wants to have a baby and they can't conceive.

The definition of barren is "not producing offspring, lack of vegetation, unproductive of results or gain, unprofitable, empty, void, lacking interest."

Maybe you've never been barren physically, you haven't gone through not being able to conceive a child, but maybe you've been spiritually barren – empty inside – searching for God. Or maybe you have struggled with being unproductive or unprofitable in your business or ministry, something you're really wanting to accomplish and you're just not there yet. You feel empty, confused, lost, hurt. You don't know what to do. And nothing will satisfy you until that ache is gone, that emptiness filled up, that need and desire met. That is how Hannah felt.

She explained this to Eli. She told him what she wanted, why she was there. She had been pouring out her heart to God. She didn't hold back from God. She didn't pretend everything was just fine. Ever gone to church and had someone say "How are you?" and you say, "Fine." But you're not fine. Well Hannah wasn't fine either.

And sometimes we're not fine. And we might try to put on a mask because we don't want to have to talk again about our pain or we are embarrassed to let people know what a mess our lives really are when we're supposed to be an example of a godly Christian leader or we don't know who to turn to with the awfulness of the situation, the deep pain that is inside of us. The only place Hannah could go was to God. And that is the only place, dear friends, that WE can go with our pain, with our desires and needs . Jesus is the only true answer for everything.

Hannah poured out her heart to God. She cried out to Him. She promised she would dedicate him to God all the days of his life if God would give her a male child. This was not a light promise. It meant she would have to take him to the temple to stay there. She wouldn't be able to raise him herself. But she was willing to make that sacrifice just to hold that precious little baby in her arms, her own little baby.

She didn't care if God thought she was mad or upset or pitiful or ungrateful for her good husband and the other many blessings in her life. She knew what she wanted and she went after it, like the woman with the issue of blood who touched the hem of Jesus' garment. She had to touch God. Prayer was the place she could do that.

The Bible says in Lamentations 2:19 Rise during the night and cry out. Pour out your hearts like water to the Lord. Lift up your hands to him in prayer, pleading for your children, for in every street they are faint with hunger.

Pour out your heart before God. And you will have victory in Him. After Hannah went to the temple and prayed and poured out her heart, the priest Eli told her that God had heard her request. She would have a son by the next year. God had given Eli the word of the Lord.

After Eli had told her this, 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. She no longer had to fast and pray. God had heard her prayer. She believed God. She worshipped God the next morning with her husband and went home. They came to their house at Ramah. Ramah means "high place."

"The Lord God is my strength, and he has made my feet like hinds' feet, and makes me walk on my high places." (Habakkuk 3:19)

The Bible says that Elkanah knew Hannah – they had intimacy and then it says that “The Lord remembered her.” Dear friend, did you know that God remembers you? That He never forgets about you? That His eye is on you like it is on every little sparrow?

Matthew 10:29-31 says “Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

God remembered Hannah. He saw her as she wept before Him and poured out her heart. He heard her cries to Him. And He gave her the desires of her heart, her baby Samuel. She kept her promise to God and dedicated him to God all the days of his life. He became one of the greatest men in the Bible, one of the Bible’s greatest prophets. He heard God’s voice from a very early age. The Bible says in 1 samuel chapter 3:19 that Samuel grew and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. Meaning that whatever Samuel prophesied, it came to pass.

I want to encourage you that there is victory on your knees. Go before God. Pour out your heart before Him. He will hear your prayers and He will answer great and mighty things. They won’t be wasted tears. It won’t be a waste of time. Your enemy will stop provoking you because God is listening. God cares. He loves you and He is about to answer. You’re about to see your victory. Whatever your problem and struggle is, whatever your heartache, go to God today. He’s waiting just for you. There is victory on your knees.

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Have a great day. Prayer.

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