

**"...No More Sad"**

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

1 Samuel 1:17, "Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him. 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."

Isn't that a wonderful verse? Look at what faith in our God does to the hurting heart. Hannah was so sad and so burdened with concern and care that she couldn't even eat. Yet, as the song says, just a little talk with Jesus made it right. She left the house of God much different than when she came in. Think of it, no more sad! She had faith that what God could do, and not only that but, in what he would do.

If we ask God for something and continue to worry and to fret over it, we have wasted our time. Hannah let loose of her concerns and held on to faith. That is the way to receive blessings from God. Mark 11:24 says, "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever

ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Doubting God is the sure way to fail, while trusting him is the way to win. Logic and human reasoning is left out when faith takes hold.

Logic would say to Hannah, "You're too old to have a child, or you have a physical problem, so forget it." With God we can dare to dream the impossible. Does it work, one might ask? Well, Pharaoh thought the Hebrews had no possible way to escape when they were at the Red Sea. Nebuchadnezzar thought that the three Hebrews who defied him were sure to die in the fire, and the same for Daniel's enemies at the lions den, and many others who thought that those who worshipped God were sure to fail - but they didn't fail. God did the impossible, time and time again.

There is a song that says, "Take your burdens to the Lord, and leave them there." That is what faith does, it says that the problem is turned over to God. We are to praise him and to leave the problem in his capable hands. Many of us could say that the Lord has done wonderful things in our lives that defied logic. You see, our God is

the same one who blessed Hannah and the other believers throughout the ages. When faith is put forth the blessings come to us.

Hannah went her way and God gave her the son that she had prayed for. How did it happen? Simply this way, Hannah believed God and had faith enough to quit worrying and to start rejoicing in the Lord. Sound simple? It is, but it is the way that God has chosen to work his miracles. You believe and God blesses through the faith. If Hannah had continued to fret over her problem she would have never had her prayer answered. God doesn't reward fear and doubt because those things show a lack of trust in God.

We can call on the same God that Hannah called on - he still answers prayer. At least the prayer of faith. So we have the choice of embracing fears, doubts, and worry, or we can reach out to the Lord through faith and receive love, joy, and peace. So many times folks don't see the blessing because they only focus on their problems. Hannah gave up sadness for joy before she had her child. The one who has to see the blessing before they can believe has no faith. Hannah chose a better way to live - I hope you do too.

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**WAITING AT THE WELL**  
THE WELL WAS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE PEOPLE IN ANCIENT BIBLE LANDS. WELLS WERE OFTEN SCOOPED OUT OF THE SANDY SOIL BY THOSE WHO KNEW OF THE PRESENCE OF WATER, OTHER WELLS WERE DUG OUT OF THE LIMESTONE ROCK IN THE HILLY PALESTINE COUNTRY. NO MATTER WHERE THE WELL HAPPENED TO BE, IT WAS THE CENTER OF ACTIVITY FOR THE PEOPLE, WHO NEEDED ITS WATERS TO LIVE, BECAUSE ALL PEOPLE HAD TO COME TO THE WELLS THEY BECAME A COMMON MEETING PLACE. A PERFECT ILLUSTRATION OF THIS IS THE ACCOUNT OF ELIEZER, ABRAHAM'S STEWARD, WHO WAS SEARCHING OUT A BRIDE FOR ISAAC, ABRAHAM'S SON. (GEN. 24) BEING IN A LAND NOT HIS OWN, ELIEZER KNEW HE COULD ASK DIRECTIONS, OR INQUIRE AFTER THOSE HE WANTED TO MEET AT THE COMMUNITY MEETING PLACE---THE WELL! AS ON A CERTAIN DAY.....



ELIEZER AND HIS PARTY WAIT WITH PATIENCE FOR THE WOMEN TO COME AND DRAW THE EVENING WATER, FOR IT IS STRICT ETIQUETTE OF THESE ANCIENT DAYS THAT A STRANGER NEVER TAKES WATER FROM A WELL THAT DOES NOT BELONG TO HIM, BUT WAITS UNTIL IT IS OFFERED TO HIM AND HIS ANIMALS!

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