

# Prayer's Fruitfulness

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I Samuel 1:1-2:11.
- B. The very beginning of prayer was a simple conversation with God.
- C. Prayer's legitimacy comes from the character and promises of God.
- D. Prayer requires a consciousness on our part of human helplessness.
- E. Prayer depends on the activity of God.
- F. Prayer is the reliance upon God's resources and not our own.
- G. Prayer is for the daily problems of our lives and offers hope for the hopeless.

## II. Hannah's pain.

- A. Hannah's problem was that she was barren.
- B. Many women long for a baby more than almost anything on earth.
- C. Hannah was mocked and taunted for this.
- D. Hannah's problem came from the Lord.
  - 1. Not all problems are a result of sin.
  - 2. Some problems occur so that the work of God might be displayed. (John 9)
  - 3. God sometimes creates conditions so that when the moment comes where the condition is relieved new insights would result for people.

## III. Hannah's prayer.

- A. Hannah prays to God vowing that she would not cut her son's hair in dedication to God if He gave her a son.
- B. Hannah realized that children are not just for a parent but also for the Lord.
- C. Samuel was to be God's man to meet the need of a nation.
- D. Hannah prayed that God would have what He wanted and that He would let her be an instrument of blessing.

## IV. Hannah's peace. Hannah received God's peace after her prayer. (Philippians 4)

V. Hannah's praise.

A. Hannah recognizes God's hand in everything—in both deliverances and problems.

B. All our difficulties come from the Lord. He gives them to us that we might bring them back to God and let Him lead us to the greater solution.

**Application questions:**

1. What does Hannah's story teach us about suffering?

---

---

2. How are we to respond to difficulties that God gives us in our lives?

---

---

3. What challenges are you facing in which God may have a greater purpose? How can you follow Hannah's example today?

---

---