

CONSECRATION

Week 1 | January 2nd - January 7th

A Cause For Prayer

Sometimes, we mistakenly think that good Christians do not have any problems. We come to church and we see others smiling and looking happy and think that they undoubtedly have it all together.

When we see and think that, it causes us to wonder: Why are we

having these problems? Some believe that if you could just learn the secrets of the abundant life that Jesus talked about, temptations will just flee from you without a struggle. You think that you will be able to overcome every obstacle with little or no effort. Some believe that if you are struggling you are not obeying Christ. If you are going through a dry season in your life, you many think that it is because of disobedience, but not necessarily so.



I want to look at a family in the scriptures that worshiped God faithfully. Even in the midst of the worship service, they were having severe problems. So much so until the wife could not participate any longer in the service. She left out of the service crying, weeping, and refusing to come into the “fellowship hall” to eat. Her husband tried his best to help her. He really didn’t understand why she was so heavy. When we really look at this story, we come to understand that the wife really was a Godly woman and we can learn a lot from her about how to deal with our problems through prayer. You can find this story in the book of 1 Samuel 1 and 2. Elkanah, the husband, had two wives which caused great conflict in the family. In the Old Testament times, God tolerated polygamy, but the Bible does not portray it in a positive light. God’s original plan is for one man and one woman to be committed for life.

In Elkanah’s situation, the problem was magnified because one of the wives had children (believed to be a sign of God’s blessing at the time) while the other wife had none at all. To the surprise of many, Elkanah favored the wife without children over the wife who had all of the children. What this led to was rivalry between the two women. So the story picks up when they go to worship at the tabernacle. They did this faithfully at the appointed time. Elkanah tried to soothe the pain of Hannah by giving her a double portion of food so that she would not feel slighted. This, of course, only made matters worse because the



Our Guide To Praying

As we are fasting for the first month of the year, please refrain from eating sweets, drinking tea or coffee, or drinking any carbonated drinks during the remainder of our consecration. You may drink 16oz of pure fruit juice, pure vegetable juice, or gatorade at your midday mealtime. If you are on medical treatment that would prohibit you from fasting in this way, please call the office and ask for Loretta Lloyd and she will assist you with a modified program. We ask that you eat your one meal a day after 6PM, after weekly services, and after prayer times. We are asking all that can to come and meet us in prayer on Mondays at 7PM and Fridays at 7:30 PM.

Be honest. Pray and fast in secret. What God sees in secret, He will reward openly.

Please do not stop taking medications. You may need a modified fast. God will honor that as well.

It is our goal to have as many people fasting and praying with us as possible.

wife with all of the children would imply to Hannah, you may have the food and the man, but I have the children.

Elkanah would try to solve this problem by telling Hannah, "Am I not better to you than ten sons?" And when you study this out, you find that Hannah never answered the question. It is as if all she could think about was why doesn't God bless me with children? And why has He blessed Peninnah above me?

Let me finish my point. So here we have this family that is committed to God and that loves God with all of these problems. Now perhaps some of you can relate to this family; whether your problems are in the realm of relationships among your family or somewhere else. I know one thing for sure. Everybody has problems. It is a part of being a human being. It is vital that we think biblically about our problems and learn to handle them the way that Hannah handled hers.

The first thing we need to realize is that God, in His wisdom, gives us problems. Get it! God, in His wisdom, gives us problems. I do understand that some problems are of our own making, but God graciously oversees all of the problems that we



face. You should not overlook this conclusion of Hannah's situation. The Bible repeats it twice so that we do not miss it. The Lord had closed her womb (1 Samuel 1:5-6). It was not just an accident of nature that Hannah was not able to conceive children. I am sure that, if she had lived in our day, modern medicine would have found another reason. Behind the medical reason would be the clear work of God. The Lord had closed her womb.

You Handle Your Problems Through Praying

This went on for years, but Hannah prayed. She came to the realization that God had the answer. I encourage all to seek after God in prayer and fasting. *You handle your problems through prayer.* Join us on Mondays (at 7 PM) and Fridays (at 7:30 PM) for our corporate prayer/problem solving gatherings. May your desire be what God's desire is for you.

Pastor Earl & Denise Goings