

Thank the Lord, our God, for faithful women. It is faith of women that work as glue holding many families together, and serve to bring great love and unity and work into local churches of Christ.

I am so thankful for godly women in my life. Truthfully, they can help make or break a man's faith. I have had three great women of faith in my life: my mother, my wife, and my mother in law. My faith is my own, but I needed help. And they have always been the help I needed. Always.

Godly women leave a mark. A good, lasting faith-building mark on our lives and character. Whether, mothers or wives or sisters in Christ. You are incredibly important: an enormous understatement.

Titus 2:3-4 – In short, faithful women accomplish a singular goal: “bring honor to God's Word.” Older women do this by guarding their tongues and their habits and being teachers and examples. Younger women do this by listening to those teachers and bringing purity to their home and family.

Some things are best understood and emulated when we see them in action. Examples can inspire us, give us ideas, and help us move forward. So, for the women of faith, and by the way, principles that will be extremely useful to men as well, let's look at the story of a woman named **Hannah**.

1. Woman of Faith Exhibit Real Problems (Read *I Sam. 1:1-8*)

- a. Hannah suffered a steady flow of problems in her life. 1) She was not able to bear children, which she watched her husband's other wife bear several. 2) She was forced to bear provocation by Peninnah year after year.
- b. I think this bears some examination. Real faith has rarely been exhibited by those who face no trial. “Oh, sure she is faithful, she has this great husband and perfect life.” “If she had children like mine, or had to work like I do, she would struggle with her faith.”
- c. Listen, this is usually a bucket of bologna. When you look more deeply you see these women have similar struggles, problems, and maybe even have been through more, and often, that is exactly WHY they now have strong faith and even improved situations!
- d. **James 1:2-4** – She is lacking in little because she has faced little. It may be because of how much she has faced, and how it has drawn her to God, that has made her stronger!
- e. *I'm not the man my wife deserves. But I'm a lot better guy than her first husband. The me of the first 10 years. And how she handled that and how she stood for faith, has helped us enjoy much of the stability we have today.*
- f. Outside of her, almost every woman I can think of who is spiritually rock solid, has achieved that strength from serious trials – in health, relationships, life challenges.
- g. **James 1:12** – Blessings flow to the strong, not to the untested. Approval of God today and the hope of heaven and great reward tomorrow.
- h. So, for ladies. It may start by throwing out **the score card** – you know, looking at other women and comparing what they have or don't, their situation with yours, scoring who deserves what and how things would be different if reversed. Your situation, not matter how blessed or burdened, is the circumstance in which you can do great things in faith.

2. Woman of Faith Express Vibrant Prayers (*I Sam. 1:9-15*)

- a. **James 1:5-8** – They don't always know what to do. And they don't always get the help they need from their husband or friends. But they are intensely connected to God in prayer. And not just the practice, but the confidence that God hears and works for His good.
- b. (**Read I Sam**) – “vibrant” – “pulsating with life.” W. – Not occasional, general or methodical. But alive, unique to the circumstance, and in absolute confidence in God.
- c. (**v10** – emotional) (**v11** – specific request and vow) (**v15** – poured out her soul).
- d. **1:19** – She was happier. She was back active. After the prayer even before the blessing!

- e. **Phil. 4:6-7** – Everybody has anxieties. The mind is divided, pulled in different directions. And everybody has their escape to get things straight again. Some with substances, some with sleeping, some seclusion or work. But the faithful use PRAYER.
- f. **I Peter. 3:1** – When I think about wives winning over unfaithful husbands without a word, I used to think of her biting her tongue or just going on with a good example, but tonight I think of her turning to talk to God, confiding in Him and asking for help.
- g. **I Sam. 2:1-2,8-9** – These prayers are not just HELP but also THANK YOU! Just as vibrant and emotional appeals to God giving Him glory and showing gratitude for blessings!

3. Women of Faith Experience God's Provisions (*I Sam. 1:19-20; 2:21*)

- a. Just because Hannah was faithful and prayed vibrantly didn't guarantee God would grant her request. God's ways are higher than our own. However, praying in faith guarantees two things 1) God hears and considers your request 2) the potential is there for your request to align with His will and BOOM! (**1:27**).
- b. **Matthew 7:7-11** – We may not receive what we request, but we receive what is "good" from God, what is needful. He ALWAYS answers in our best spiritual interest.
- c. **Philippians 4:12-19** – We often read the first part of this, but look at the rest. God took care of me. God got me through with what I needed. He will provide for you as well!
- d. Sometimes people get so burdened and down about things that happen in their lives – bad things that come, or good things that don't. So overwhelming is their assessment for what should have happened, or not happened, that they miss what God HAS DONE!
- e. Women of faith don't do that. They see the workings of God in every day. And they pour out their hearts to God about what they feel is needed. They embrace His response.

4. Women of Faith Excel at their Promises (*I Sam 1:11,21-28*) Read v 11.

- a. Now this is where the woman of faith, Hannah, proves herself to be such a powerful example to follow. It is sometimes natural to lean on God when things are hard. We might absolutely pour our soul out begging for aid. And even make sincere, all in promises to God if he will but get us through! (*Every been lost in the woods?*)
- b. But real faith keeps its promises. They aren't hollow promises in the depths of the moment. They are true commitments. As we count on God to help us, He counts on us to come through our commitment. We made a deal! Hannah has made an amazing promise – **"if you give me a son, I will give him to You!"** And, she did! (**Read 21-28**)
- c. **Eccl. 5:3-7** – Watch what you say to God! Watch what you vow. Talk to Him about it first. Talk to the people you love. Word, vows, made to God are not like dreams that float around, are interesting, but fade away with no substance. Pay your vow!
- d. Faithful women have real problems, like knuckleheaded husbands or two seconds of time to themselves – but they still find a way to give God their first fruits. They take their T.A.G. – they get their children in with God's people. They come through.
- e. **Matthew 18:5-6** – Woe to husbands who make it hard on their wives, their earnest, committed wives, to fulfill their vows to God. Let's be a support to her faith!

Conclusion: Titus 2:3-5 – Families. Communities. Churches. We need godly women. We need younger women who care for their families and serve their God. We need older women who support and encourage and lead younger women to greater faith!

But where is she? She is not in the "perfect home." She is not found in any one situation, marriage, job status, or family size. She is Hannah. She is in any and all godly women who

1) Do not see issues as obstacles 2) Pray amazingly and daily 3) See God's hand in their lives.

4) Make commitments to God and fulfill them without any question or compromise.

And they change the world. They literally and so needfully change the world. Can we help you? Can we help you find the Hannah in your heart? Men, does she deserve more? Can you help tonight?