

## ANNA'S PRAYER

The article titled "David" ends with the words:

'Hence, I allowed myself to think that Mikal had never experienced real repentance, since God had not opened her womb until her death.'

And I started to think of my own life... have I ever repented truly before God? Do I humble myself before Him and do I want to walk in quiet and silent devotion every day? In the answer God suggested to me another in-depth analysis, this time of Anna's prayer. I am sure you know this story. Let's read it:

*„Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there. And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb. And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb. So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat. Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?" So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD. And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish." 1Sam1:1-10 NKJV*

Do you remember what Anna prayed for? For a son ... We know from the Spirit of Prophecy that God the Father desires glory from the mouths of children and infants at the time of his Son's second coming to the earth,... and how **are we** to become mothers like Mary, Elizabeth or Anna, if we do not have such deep, silent, humble and gentle devotion to God and His Son? And on top of that from time to time there is the feminist grain in us like in Mikal or Vashti, so how can we become devoted mother's of God's seed?

In her prayer, Anna immerses herself in God and gives herself to Him completely, and this is what we need. We need to give our will to God. And His will is that we should serve our husbands, obey their commands and fulfill their will by serving them with willing and joyful hearts. What does it mean to give God all your will? It means **to have no** plans or intentions of your own, but humbly and confidently accept everything that is brought upon you on a daily regular basis, believing that all this comes to us from God's hand!

Here is Anna's prayer:

*„Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head." 1Sam1:11 NKJV*

Do we, modern wives, just like Anna, pray for our offspring? Is there such love as was between Anna and Elkanah between us and our husbands? Do our husbands love us as much as Elkanah, who assured her wife, when she was still barren//childless, that he was better for her than 10 sons?

Anna prayed to God eagerly so she could have a son and promised to give him back to God. Heavenly Father's gift was to return to Him. How was it supposed to be done in reality? Well, Anna was to give her son to the temple in Shiloh for the service after the little boy was weaned.

Should not we also want to have children today in order to give them back to God the Father? How are we to give our children back to God? What is for us women today in reality the Temple in Shiloh ... to which we are to give our offspring?

They are our husbands. Our God's given husbands. So let us consider if we are ready to let our husbands rule first in us and in our children? Are we at peace when our husbands make all the decisions about our children, and do we support them in these decisions so that our children could see that mom respects dad's decisions? Do we give our husbands the right to rule in us and in our children? Do we allow them to rule in us and in our children unconditionally? Do we trust and respect God to acknowledge our husbands' control over us and our children? Or do we subconsciously accuse our husbands of "hurting" our children by making pseudo wrong decisions towards them? How often do you find yourself thinking that your husband's decisions about his children are hurtful and unfair? Do we allow our husbands to be fully fathers in our homes and show them respect?

We will get back to this issue in a moment.

The Bible mentions several women who were called barren and who later gave birth to children when God decided they were ready to become mothers. God's decision changed positively because something changed in the women's hearts and minds. Let's recall Sarah, Elizabeth, Samson's mother, Rebecca, Anna ... At some point of their lives they trusted God completely and absolutely and submitted to Him unconditionally. They let Him be His vessels.

*„As she was praying to the LORD, Eli watched her. Seeing her lips moving but hearing no sound, [Now Hannah, spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard NKJV] he thought she had been drinking. “Must you come here drunk?” he demanded. “Throw away your wine!” “Oh no, sir!” she replied. “I haven’t been drinking wine or anything stronger. But I am very discouraged, and I was pouring out my heart to the LORD. Don’t think I am a wicked woman! For I have been praying out of great anguish and sorrow.” “In that case,” Eli said, “go in peace! May the God of Israel grant the request you have asked of him.” “Oh, thank you, sir!” she exclaimed. Then she went back and began to eat again, and she was no longer sad.” 1Sam1:12-18 NLT*

After this prayer, as we read: *“she was no longer sad”*, because after this prayer she felt relief. She poured out her soul before God the Father and placed her concern on Him, and only then God was allowed to fill her heart with His Spirit, His thoughts and personality; only then when she emptied her heart out of concern and put her trust in Him, God was allowed to act in her. We read that: *„Then she went back and began to eat again, and she was no longer sad.”*

I hope we remember what was written earlier that:

*„So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat. Then Elkanah her husband said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved?” 1Sam1:7-8 NKJV*

After this breakthrough prayer in her life, Anna ate and was no longer sad because the malicious and provocative remarks of her rival had ceased to affect her. The Father's Spirit in Anna, who finally found a place for Himself in her, received Pennina's malicious and provocative remarks differently than Anna's spirit did. God's Spirit considered these remarks to be meaningless in relation to God's will that the Father wanted to fulfill in Anna. Any comments from Pennina were irrelevant. And this was finally understood by Anna when pouring out her soul before God, she understood that God the Father had taken responsibility for her long before Penninah was even born!!! From that moment on, Peninnah is no longer mentioned in the pages of the Bible. She existed there as long as her bad behavior so to speak impressed Hannah. After that, the role of Peninnah ceased to matter. Remember about it when something saddens you, irritates you, upsets you that the thing is not a problem. The problem lies in us. It is our problem that we let ourselves be approached by bad words, actions, reactions from other people or some circumstances.

Let's read on:

*„Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, “Because I have asked for him from the LORD.” Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever.” So Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the LORD establish His word.” Then the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him. Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli. And she said, “O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD.” So they worshiped the LORD there.” 1Sam1:19-28 NKJV*

Anna named her firstborn son Samuel, which means "God's name", as it is written in 1Sam. 1:20:

*„and in due time she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, “I asked the LORD for him.” 1Sam1:20 NLT*

From these words it can be assumed that we can influence God's plans; that we can ask for something from God; it turns out that we are not just robots subject to God's will, but we can cooperate with God and in God and influence God's plans. Hezekiah also pleaded with God for an additional 15 years of life:

*„When Hezekiah heard this, he turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, “Remember, O LORD, how I have always been faithful to you and have served you single-mindedly, always doing what pleases you.” Then he broke down and wept bitterly. But before Isaiah had left the middle courtyard, this message came to him from the LORD: “Go back to Hezekiah, the leader of my people. Tell him, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of your ancestor David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears. I will heal you, and three days from now you will get out of bed and go to the Temple of the LORD. I will add fifteen years to your life, and I will rescue you and this city from the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my own honor and for the sake of my servant David.’” 2Kings 20:2-6 NLT*

These are quite extraordinary two examples from the Word of God which show how it is worth being faithful to God and persistent in prayer sincerely pouring out your soul before Him!

I will now get back once more to the fact that Anna and Elkanah placed their child before Eli with great confidence: „After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and **brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh**. When the bull had been sacrificed, **they brought the boy to Eli**,” 1Sam1:24-25 NIV

Let us remember that they did it when the whole nation and the neighboring nations witnessed the demoralization of Eli's sons, which he allowed because he was a too indulgent father! By his wrongdoing, he had allowed the spoiled people and his sons to lose the Ark of the Covenant, and it had fallen into the hands of the Philistines! And yet they brought their little son before him in this way giving Samuel back to God! Isn't it a very powerful lesson for us teaching us how we should obey God, how to do His will? Anna and Elkanah did not make Eli accountable for the immoralities in the Temple. They left the judgement to God. Since the Bible says that wives should be obedient and submissive to their husbands, including those who disobey the Word, then this is what we are to do and Amen! There is no discussion here. A pious wife will always know what to do and how to behave. She will trust God that He is taking for her and her offspring, which are also her husband's offspring - full responsibility. Anna's trust, devotion and faithfulness paid off greatly. Samuel turned out to be a blessing for his parents and for the whole nation: by God's will he became a great judge of Israel.

Each year Anna remembered about her son and sewed him a cloak which she took to the tabernacle:

*„Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice.” 1 Sam 1:20 NIV*

Having given birth to Samuel Anna continues to pray. Here is her second prayer recorded in the pages of the Bible:

*„Then Hannah prayed and said: “My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. “There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. “Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the LORD is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed. “The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away. “The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. “For the foundations of the earth are the LORD’s; on them he has set the world. He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness. “It is not by strength that one prevails; those who oppose the LORD will be broken. The Most High will thunder from heaven; the LORD will judge the ends of the earth. “He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.” 1Sam2:1-10 NIV*

Anna worships and glorifies God for what He has done to her! Her faith is a counterbalance to the idolatry of the time and even Eli's own betrayal of God! God the Father remembers about his faithful servant all the time and she is gifted with new children:

*„And the LORD was gracious to Hannah; she gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.” 1 Sam2:21 NIV*

At the same time, the sons of Eli are compared in the Bible to the sons of the devil: „Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD” 1Sam2:12 KJV

And Eli himself: ” (...) was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; **and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.** And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD'S people to transgress. one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.” 1Sam2:22-25 KJV

What a shocking contrast!

The same Eli who spoke to Elkanah and Hannah: „And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own home.” 1Sam2:20KJV [Before they returned home, Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, “May the LORD give you other children to take the place of this one she gave to the LORD. NLT][ Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the LORD.” Then they would go home. NIV] was unable to effectively stop the evil raging in his sons and in the whole nation, so he heard:

„Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Did I not clearly reveal Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh’s house? Did I not choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest, to offer upon My altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod before Me? And did I not give to the house of your father all the offerings of the children of Israel made by fire? Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?’ Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: ‘I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.’ But now the LORD says: ‘Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed. Behold, the days are coming that I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father’s house, so that there will not be an old man in your house. And you will see an enemy in My dwelling place, despite all the good which God does for Israel. And there shall not be an old man in your house forever. But any of your men whom I do not cut off from My altar shall consume your eyes and grieve your heart. And all the descendants of your house shall die in the flower of their age. Now this shall be a sign to you that will come upon your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they shall die, both of them. Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who shall do according to what is in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever.” 1Sam1:27-35 NKJV

One could say that, as if "thanks" to Anna, God the Father could establish Himself a faithful priest! This woman's piety was of great importance and it bore great fruit!

Today we live in very difficult times on the threshold of the coming of Jesus. Demoralization is similar to that of Sodom and Gomorrah. Let us mention just a few issues like pedophilia in the Catholic Church, child markets - pregnancies ordered so that children can be adopted by homosexual couples, vulgarity, demands for abortion on request, murder, rape, theft ... sheer godlessness//ungodliness ... Meanwhile, right now God the Father wants to reveal His glory in us! Right now, in these troubled times, God wants to reveal His full power and glory! If we do not become His vessels whom will He use? Couples like Elkana and Anna are needed today. Let us learn from these men of God. Let us imitate their good example. Let us reject their mistakes and copy all good habits and deeds. We no longer have time to commit mistakes.

Above all, let us wish and desire such an intimate and deep dedication to God as Anna's or apostle John's when he placed his head on Jesus' shoulder.

Piety! We need deep, True piety and godliness! Submissiveness! Trust! Devotion to God! We need to Listen to His voice, which is possible only when we calm down and let Him rule in us.

Let us remain in the blessed hope for the changes in us, so that our God may come now!

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