

We are women who know the joy of the Spirit-filled life. We live and abide in the love of Jesus, trusting that He is enough to meet every need and satisfy every heart.

## A Mother's Heart.

## A Woman's Circumstance.

We are women living under the authority of a faithful, loving God. A God who has a plan and is in covenant relationship with His people.

Our individual lives fit under this redemptive plan for the world. Our existence and our participation in living under His will is valuable to Him and to His purposes. Even amid all the chaos and confusion, and the difficulties, He is weaving a beautiful tapestry that we hopefully can one day look at recognizing His handwork and forethought.

If you are like me, you may often question God's choices for us, where He places us, who He binds us to, how He leads us, and what He gives us to handle. But we must consider, and attempt to get a glimpse of this overall, overarching belief that it is part of an ongoing story that we are participating in and allowed to step in and out of, all the while being used by Him.

The telling of Hannah's story embraces two crucial pieces of understanding that we need to have as women of God. First, we each are a part of God's plan. He is working behind the scenes. He is establishing people, like you and me, to be instrumental in that fulfillment.

Hannah's story reveals how God uses circumstances that might seem insignificant to be the means of His grace provided. God is preparing to make a name for himself through a miraculous birth. And the dedicated prayer of a faithful believer will be His appointed means. Again and again, before God laid His hand on a leader, He laid it on the mother first. Like Samuel, the lives of many great saints can be traced back to a praying mother.

Secondly, Jesus kept prayer at the forefront always. For followers of Jesus, nothing bonds hearts more than the commitment and act of praying alongside one another, bearing witness, and seeing His faithfulness demonstrated in our own lives and the lives of others.

Prayer is the backbone of everything that we do in his name. Individual prayer, and prayer with a body of believers who are committed to being an instrument in His larger vision. "Prayer is the Christian's chief act of faith." Confident faith verifies what we believe in God's goodness and character. This confident faith is contagious and a powerful testimony.

Think of Hannah's testimony as she received her son from the Lord and then gave him back to the Lord. I wonder what Elkanah and Peniah and even Eli thought as they watched her surrender her beloved son. Faith in the God who answers prayer results in a courageous witness that will not go unnoticed.