

THE UNUTTERED CONVERSATIONS IN A MOTHER'S HEART

A mother's heart is full of silent conversations and unuttered words. The Lord still hears them and knows them all.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ "...People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). Most of a mother's work is done in the "unseen", occurring behind closed doors where no one sees or hears. While the world sees the external, God sees and hears the internal dialogue and the internal prayers in the heart and mind of a mother for her children.
- ❖ Our scripture text from 1 Samuel 1 allows us to get a glimpse into the inner conversations of a woman named Hannah who was married to a man who loved her dearly, Elkanah. Elkanah, however, had a second wife named Peninnah. She was able to have children while Hannah could not. Though Hannah longed to be a mother, she could not because she was barren.
- ❖ Peninnah was Hannah's "rival" in every sense of the word. Their relationship was toxic because Elkanah loved Hannah more than Peninnah even though Peninnah had birthed him many children while Hannah had none. So, Peninnah used this fact to constantly harass Hannah.
- ❖ In ancient biblical times, barrenness was viewed as a profound personal tragedy, a social stigma, and often a spiritual curse or punishment from God. It was viewed as a mark of disgrace and caused deep shame.
- ❖ Barrenness wasn't something a married woman could hide; you either had children or you did not. Children were seen as the primary blessing of a marital union and a sign of divine favour. So, Peninnah, took every opportunity to insult Hannah and ridicule her because Peninnah's table was full of children's voices and laughter while Hannah's table remained empty.
- ❖ In the current vernacular, we could say that Peninnah was verbally abusing Hannah to the point of causing her such emotional stress that she would weep and lose her appetite.
- ❖ Peninnah's harassment wasn't always at the same time or with the same intensity. It escalated, however, during the annual pilgrimage to the Tabernacle at Shiloh—the time when Hannah was most vulnerable.
- ❖ Mothers, when the enemy wants to attack you, he doesn't come when you're strong, or when you're on your "A" game. No, he comes when you're vulnerable as he tries to cause you to doubt God. But remember the Lord's words to Paul: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). When you're weak, God is strong. There's no need to feel overwhelmed or defeated—God is on your side!
- ❖ During the annual pilgrimage to Shiloh, Elkanah took his whole family with him to celebrate and to thank God. The Bible tells us in 1 Samuel 1:4-5 that:

Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her but the Lord had closed her womb.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

1 Samuel 1:10-18; Luke 2:19, 51
(all scripture in NIV unless otherwise noted)

- ❖ Hannah had such an intense longing for a child that her barrenness made her feel inadequate...useless. Elkanah tried to encourage Hannah by telling her that she had his heart (v. 8). But as much as Hannah was loved by Elkanah, that love was no substitute for a child.
- ❖ When they arrived at Shiloh, Hannah was so grieved and emotionally distraught that as she prayed to God, her lips moved but no words emerged. She was reaching out to God in unuttered conversations. Her unspoken internal words were reaching the throne room of the Almighty God in a language that He could understand.
- ❖ Mothers, you know what's it's like to get to the point of desperation, where all you can do is groan in your spirit as you fall on your knees and plead to God in unutterable conversations that He alone understands. Where no words are spoken and all you can do is weep.
- ❖ But know that every unuttered word God hears. And every tear shed does not go unnoticed. Each teardrop is collected by God and recorded in His book as He remembers your suffering (see Psalm 56:8). There is not a thing about us that God does not value.
- ❖ We're told in the Bible that it was "...the Lord [who] had closed Hannah's womb" (1 Sam. 1:5). If the Lord shuts up a womb, that same God can open it up. If the Lord made the womb barren, that same God can bring fertility.
- ❖ Hannah's barrenness was not because of personal sin. Her barrenness actually served a divine purpose to build her faith and set the stage for a miraculous intervention that allowed God to be glorified through the birth of her son, Samuel. Hannah became totally surrendered to God's will.
- ❖ Mothers, when you are being tried and tested to what seems like the breaking point, know that God has not abandoned you, neither has He forsaken you. More trust is being birthed from your core as your spiritual muscles grow and become stronger. Your faith is being built up.
- ❖ From the ashes, something beautiful will grow. And from your trial will arise a beautiful testimony.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. We are told that God had closed Hannah's womb (1 Sam. 1:6). Discuss Hannah's reaction to her situation—her thoughts/feelings, her actions/reactions. Do the same when considering other biblical figures in similar circumstances (i.e., Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, and Mary's cousin Elizabeth). Evaluate each woman's level of faith. Was it little/strong? How did they demonstrate their faith?
2. When encountering situations that tries our faith, what does the Bible tell us to do (e.g., 1 Peter 4:12-13)?

PRAYER TIME

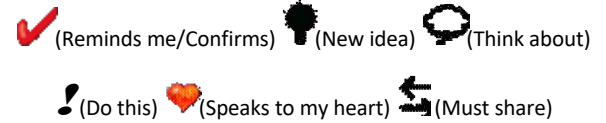
"Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer... When my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock!"

Start-up: Was there an instance where you judged someone on their outward appearance and were mistaken? Describe the disconnect.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.



PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

PRAYER FOCUS: Foreign missionaries: anointing to preach the gospel, anointing to lead and empower national workers; family unity, personal protection.

24-hour Prayer: Daily;

Daily Devotions: Monday - Friday @ 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.;

Departmental Prayer: Every Thursday (please check schedule)

Corporate Prayer: Every Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (and in person every second Friday @ 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.).

Zoom ID: 898 3191 5909 **Phone Access:** 647-374-4685

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

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For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FYYA NIGHT

Date: Friday, May 22nd, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Location: Main Sanctuary

Contacts: Pastor Dan Peel, Sis. Naomi Kovach, or
Sis. Shayanne Solomon

MAY SPRING CLEAN

Our annual spring cleaning is taking place on Saturday, May 23rd, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come and take part in this wonderful time of fellowship as we refresh the church. As the saying goes: many hands make light work, so see you there!

GROUP EVANGELISM

Group Evangelism is organizing a prayer walk on Saturday, May 30th, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. All are welcomed to join! For more information, please contact Sis. Maude Chalifour.



FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.

(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)

Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.

(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

(In person and via Zoom)

Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.

(In person and via Zoom)

Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled
(see ushers for information)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

MAY 10, 2026

Faith **SANCTUARY**

Feed Canada to Feed the World

Reaching the World Through Prayer

~ 2026 ~

Pastor:
Rev. Adrian W. Peel

"In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. And she made a vow, saying, 'Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.'"

1 Samuel 1:10-11 (NIV)

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