

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: I Samuel, Part 1 (The Heart of a Leader)

THURSDAY

OPEN

How far can you trust God? Can you give Him something and really trust Him with it? I mean, is He trustworthy? Can you dedicate something to God and know that God is going to take care of it or is it only secure when it's in your hands? This is what we want to talk about today. It's a very important question that you need to deal with and we're going to deal with it today.

PART ONE

Hannah named her son Samuel, but Samuel meant asked of the Lord. Now do you remember the deal that Hannah made with God when she asked Him for a son? Let's go back and look at 1 Samuel, chapter 1. And you say, where else have we been? We've only been in chapter 1. You're right, but we're going to get to chapter 2. All right, verse 11, "She made a vow and she said, 'O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your

maidservant and remember me, and [do] not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head.” (1 Samuel 1:11) Did you get that term that she used for herself? I’m a maidservant. I’m a maidservant. I’m a maidservant. She said it three times. She identified herself; now listen, this is so important. She identified herself as a servant of the Lord. You know that’s the way Jesus identified Himself. He said the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, to give His life a ransom for many. To minister means to be a servant. And so when He, when He is ready to be arrested and He’s in the upper room and He washes the disciple’s feet and He says what am I doing; He says if I the Lord and Master wash your feet, look at the example that I am giving. She says I’m going to give You back what You give to me. I’m going to dedicate it to You. But you know; is she going to keep that promise? I mean after all, now God has opened her womb. Now she has given birth to this baby boy by the name of Samuel. She has asked and God has answered. It says in verse 20 of chapter one, “[And] It came about in due time [that], after Hannah had conceived, that she gave birth to a son; and she named him Samuel saying, ‘Because I have asked him of the Lord.’ Then the man Elkanah went up with all [of] his household to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and pay his vow.” (1:20-21) Now you marked that before. Remember you marked ‘yearly’ in verse three. You marked ‘year’ in verse 7. It happened year after year as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, that she was weeping and she wouldn’t eat because she got there and she was reminded again that she had no child. Now Elkanah wants to take his family again up to Shiloh to the house of the Lord to offer the yearly sacrifice, so you want to put a clock over there. Remember we want to mark those five W’s and an H, who and what, and when and where, and why and how. So this is the yearly sacrifice and we’re marking this time phrase. It says in verse 22, “But Hannah did not go up...,” And you say I bet I know why she didn’t go up.

She didn't want to give that kid away. Well, that's not true; but she didn't go up that year. Look at what she says, "But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'I will not go up until the child is weaned; then I will bring him, that he may appear before the Lord and stay there...'” listen, "...forever.” (1:22) When I read that it makes me want to cry, makes me want to cry. When I think about my Tommy when he was born, when I think about my Mark when he was born, when I think about my David when he was born, and David was premature. David weighed just 4 lbs., 15 oz. And I remember him drawing to me, drawing him to me and holding him in my arms and looking at him and saying I'm going to take care of you, I'm going to take care of you. I mean Tommy weighed 8 lbs., 15 oz., 4 pounds more than David. And I can't imagine nursing that child and then saying I'm going to take the child that I gave birth to, that I nursed and I'm going to take him to the house of the Lord, and I'm going to leave him there forever. He's no longer going to be mine in the sense of living in my house and running and playing and eating at my table and me wiping his face and watching him grow in wisdom and in stature and hopefully in favor with God and man. And so what you see right now is that she says I'm going to do it. But I'm not going to do until I've weaned him. I'm not going to do it until he can eat on his own and then I'm going to take him up, that he might appear before the Lord and stay there forever. I can hear you say, Kay, are we supposed to mark forever? Yes, we're supposed to mark forever because that's a time phrase, isn't it? It's telling you how long. It's forever. All right then, "Elkanah her husband said to her, 'Do what seems best to you. Remain [here] until you've weaned him; only may the Lord confirm His word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him.” (1:23) 'Until' is a time phrase, isn't it, because it tells you how long she nursed him. She nursed him until she weaned. Yes, you can put a clock there. Now when she had weaned him and that's another time phrase. She took him up with her, with a three-year-old bull and one ephah of flour and a jug of wine,

and brought him to the house of the Lord...” Now you want to color: “...house of the Lord in Shiloh...” (1:24a) Where’s the house of the Lord? In Shiloh and that’s what we’ve seen, so you want to double underline it in green. All right, because that tells you where and that’s your, your symbol for where. And it says, “...[she] brought him to the house of the Lord in Shiloh, although the child was young.” (1:24b) And that child has to be really young because the child has been nursing all this time; now a child can nurse until 3 or 4, until the mother decides to wean them. But I guarantee you he wasn’t a teenager. All right, he was a young boy. This is a young child that she is leaving at the house of the Lord. “Then they slaughtered the bull, and brought the boy to Eli.” (1:25) Now who is Eli? You’ve got it. Eli is the priest. All right, and, “She said, ‘Oh, my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, [I’m] the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord.’” (1:26) Once again there’s that word prayer. God wants us to see and God wants us to understand that when you think of Hannah, you think of prayer. And over and over again we have marked this word. But now watch how much you’re going to mark it now. So you would mark praying to the Lord. She says, “‘For this boy I prayed, and the Lord has given me my petition which I asked of Him.’” (1:27) So you’re going to mark prayer twice in verse 27. You’re going to mark for this boy I prayed. You’re going to mark prayed there. And then you’re going to mark my petition because prayer, many times is a act of worship. It’s praise. It’s thanksgiving. It’s recounting who God is. But sometimes prayer is a petition. It’s saying God, this is what I need, God. This is what I want. God, please supply this. God, please do that. That’s a petition. And so she says, “‘For this boy I prayed, and the Lord has given me my petition which I asked of Him. So I have also dedicated him to the Lord; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the Lord.’” (1:27-28a) “As long as he lives he is dedicated to the Lord.” What are you holding in your hand? And why have you got your fingers so tight around what you’re holding that your knuckles are actually

white? Are you afraid someone's going to take what you've got in your hand from you? You know where the safest place that thing in your hand can be? It's in; it's dedicated to God. So open your fingers; open your fingers, open your fingers. You say I can't. I'm afraid. I, I, I can't do it. Yes you can if you know God, if you know God and you know that He is Jehovah-sabaoth. He is the Lord of hosts. He is in control of all. His sovereignty rules over all. Open your fingers. Open your fingers beloved. Come on, open them and hold your hand out flat and say God, here it is. Here it is; I'm dedicating it to You. It might be your child. It might be your husband. It might be your future. It might be your job. It might be your health. You say, unh, and you draw that hand back and you've got your fingers clenched again, haven't you, and you're holding it tight and you say I can't. I am afraid. I can't, I am afraid. You know, we work in 119 countries; we work in 69 languages and many of you know that and many of you are our partners and you know the fruit of it and you know how God is using your monies, not only to pay for radio, but also, which is going around the world, but also to get books in the hands of these people and teach them. Well, there was a young man that came to one of our workers in a Muslim country where they're veiled from the top of the head to the tip of their feet, and he said I, I have read God, Are You There and I want to, I want to know Him, but I'm so afraid. What do you do, what do you say? We'll talk about it right after the break.

PART TWO

I'm glad you came back. You want to hear that story don't you? Well you know what? I want to tell it to you because you know; there is nothing greater than being used of God. There's nothing greater than dedicating yourself to the Lord and dedicating what you have, and dedicating all your possessions to the Lord and being used of God. And there's so many of you that are being used of God because you're supporting this ministry and you're reaching all these countries and you're being used of God to

transform lives. You say, you know, I wish I could go. You know what? I wish I could go too. I wish I could have been there in that country. But you know what? It is so hard in that country. It's a time of living almost, if you don't know God, in just total fear. Because if a woman steps out in this country and any part of her is showing, I mean you're in danger. They could just beat you to death right there. They could haul you off to prison and everything. It's hard. But you and I can help take the veil, the spiritual veil, off of their eyes. Well our worker was in this country and our worker had been meeting with this man, teaching him the gospel of John, teaching him to study inductively, because they want to see truth for themselves, and so the translation of the book, God, Are You There? Do You Care? Do You Know About Me?, which is an inductive study on the gospel of John. And if you haven't done it, you ought to get it and you ought to do it. And you know what? You could do it for your quiet time every day. And as you do it, it's set up day by day for a certain number of weeks and I promise you, you will be absolutely transformed. You will know the gospel of John like you've never known it before. Well this young man was reading it and he saw who Jesus was. And he came to our worker and he was literally shaking and there was just sweat all over him, and he said I really believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that God did have a Son and that Jesus is the Son of God. And he said and I want Him in my life and I want to believe on Him, but I'm so afraid because I know if my father, my family finds out they're going to kill me. And our worker was praying to God and our worker wanted to say, but that might not necessarily happen. As he was talking to God about all this in his mind, the Lord spoke to him and the Lord said don't tell him that he may not die. Let him know he may die, because if he's going to come to Me, and believe in Me he has to be willing to die, no matter what, he has to be willing to give himself to Me. In other words, to dedicate himself to Me. And so he just affirmed what the young man said. He said yes, you may die. Yes, your parents may kill you. Your father may kill you. Your brother may

kill you. Yes, it may happen. And he waited and he watched that young man struggle and finally that young man was flat on the floor crying to God, trembling and dedicating himself to the Lord and saying God, I want You even if You kill me, because I know what this man said. And our worker had told him, you know, but if you die this is where you're going to be; you're going to be immediately with God. You're going to be immediately in His presence and you're going to live forever. And he shared with him what eternity holds. He shared with him what eternal life is all about. And you see, so many times we don't want to open our hand because we're looking at now and we're looking at us and we think because we have them in our hand that we can protect them and that we can care for it and we can keep it or I can keep my job, or I can keep this money or I can take care of this, and we're afraid to open our fingers. And you know why? Because we really do not understand that God is who He says He is. He is Jehovah-saboath. He is the sovereign ruler of all the universe. He is the Lord of all the hosts in heaven and all the hosts on earth. He is God; He is in charge. And this life is not the end; it's simply the beginning. It's like kindergarten and everything else is coming after it. It's like coming to the age of manhood and then all that fullness awaiting you. Open your hand; open your hand. You can dedicate whatever you have to the Lord. And you know what? When you open your fingers and you hold it in an open hand, then God doesn't have to pry open your fingers. There's no contest there. And you're saying and you're holding that child up in perfect trust. Now wait beloved, until you see what Eli was like. If you realize what Eli was like you'd say oh, no, I'm not going to give my child to this man. But when something is dedicated to the Lord it belongs to the Lord doesn't it? And the Lord takes care of what belongs to Him. And you can know that and you can trust that. You say but I know people who have loved the Lord and who were dedicated to the Lord and who died. Is death an enemy precious one? Is death an enemy? Oh no. Death is promotion for the child of God. You don't understand God. You

don't understand the Word of God. You don't understand what is yours in Christ Jesus. You don't understand as Paul understood that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Open your fingers; open your fingers. Come on, you can do it. I've done it and you can do it. And if you will do it and hold it with an open hand; that's what Hannah did. That's what Elkanah did. Remember this was his son and he had made this promise to the Lord. This was a boy that was asked of God and God answered. And this boy belonged to the Lord. And so she said and so I have dedicated him to the Lord; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the Lord. Now look, once you dedicate something to God it belongs to God and you don't take it back. Now, does this mean that Hannah did not enjoy her son anymore? Does this mean that Hannah never saw her son again? Oh no, wait until you read chapter 2. But you know what? Because Hannah dedicated her son to the Lord, that son became a mighty man in Israel. You know, when you unfold your fingers, when you open up your hand and you dedicate something to the Lord, God can use that in a way that you never thought possible. So beloved, what's in your hand? Open your fingers; come on, come on. You can trust Him. You say I'm not sure I can. You need to study. Download this study. Go to preceptsforlife.com and download this study. Study with me and as you study with me you're going to get to know God, not because it's with me, but it's because of the method that we're going to show you and you're going to get to know God and you're going to see hey, I don't have to pry my fingers open. I can trust God because I know God. And the people that know God are able to stand firm. They're able to keep it dedicated to the Lord and they're able to do exploits. And that's what you'll do, and that's what that dedicated thing will do for God.