

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)

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

Have you ever prayed earnestly for something and God answered? And every time you've looked at that something; maybe it was a someone, maybe it was a certain thing that you wanted or maybe it was relief for a situation, but every time you look at it you think, I asked God for that and God did it. It's a wonderful memory, isn't it? What is it to ask God for something and to know when you look at it, God answered?

PART ONE

Oh Beloved, have you been pouring out your soul to God asking Him for an answer, praying and laying a need, a desire, a hope before Him and you haven't seen the answer yet? Just wait until the answer comes. It is going to be like a spiritual milestone in your life. Have you ever looked back and looked at times when you have prayed and God has answered and what He did here and what He did there, and you're constantly reminded aren't you

of the goodness of God? You say you know I asked God about that or I asked God for that and you know He answered. And that's such an encouragement to our faith, isn't it? You say, but I've been asking and God hasn't answered. Well, Beloved, what I want to share with you is: don't stop asking. Now you need to check your heart and you need to find out if what you're asking for is really according to the will of God. You can't ask God for somebody else's husband or somebody else's wife. You can't ask God for something like that. That's a no, no and God is saying no. You can't ask God to kill your husband or to kill your wife or to kill your kids because they're such a pain. That's not a thing that you ask God for because God is not about death. God is about life. And God is not about division or tearing up something. God is about building up. Well as we come to 1 Samuel, chapter 1, we're making great strides, aren't we? Well, we're going to get through chapter 1 by this week, I know, and probably farther. But as we come to 1 Samuel, chapter 1, remember Hannah is a wife who is barren. And her husband has another wife who has been very, very fruitful. And Hannah has gone up year after year to Shiloh to make that yearly sacrifice with her husband. And as she has gone up Peninnah the other wife has just provoked her bitterly and has irritated her because the Lord has closed her womb. It's almost like saying, God loves me, but He doesn't love you because look at my sons, look at my daughters and you are barren; God doesn't love you. And you know many, many times we think when we don't have something that it's because God doesn't love us. We think oh, we're not one of God's favorites. Beloved, that's not the issue. If God has not answered your prayer, if God has closed your womb or closed that hope for something that you wanted, it's not because God doesn't love you, because God has a future for you; God has hope for you; God has a purpose for you; God has a plan for you and God is going to move in His perfect time in His perfect way. But one of the things that God wants to do as He takes you through any situation of life, is God wants to teach you, God wants to instruct you, God wants to

grow you up and mature you. God wants you; listen carefully, to talk everything over with Him. What is prayer? Prayer is simply talking to God about the situation. So this is what we find happening here. Hannah has gone. She is at the temple in Shiloh. She is praying; her lips are moving; nothing's coming out. Eli, who is the priest there, has been watching her and Eli thinks she's drunk. You know, he's looking at her and he's evaluating the situation wrong. Peninnah is looking at Hannah and she's evaluating the situation wrong. I mean she is just lording it over Hannah. Eli is accusing her of being drunk. The poor woman, you feel so sorry for her. And Eli said to her in verse 14: "...How long will you make yourself drunk? Put away your wine from you." But Hannah replied, 'No, my lord, [I'm] a woman oppressed in spirit; I have [neither] drunk...wine nor strong drink, but I have poured out my soul [to] the Lord.'" (1 Samuel 1:14-15) What is prayer? It's pouring out your soul to the Lord. It's talking to God about the situation. And you see Hannah doing that in verse 14. Now remember we're marking every reference to prayer. So in verse 10 we mark it because it appears there the first time: "She, greatly distressed prayed to the Lord..." (1:10a) so we mark it there. In verse 11 we marked it as she continued praying. But now in verse 13, "As for Hannah, she was speaking in her heart..." (1:13a) That's prayer. And so you would mark that the same way. Now when you get to verse 15 and she says, "...but I have poured out my soul before the Lord." (1:15b) you mark it the same way you mark prayer, because prayer is pouring out your soul to the Lord. So you say, whoa, it's talking about prayer a lot. Yes, you're right. It's talking about prayer a lot because God is going to take a situation in this woman's life that He has recorded for us because He wants us to get instruction from this woman's life. He wants us not only to understand Him, not only to understand history, and what you have to realize is that there are many other lives that are being lived at this time, but God has chosen these because He wants you to understand His precepts for life by looking at these people and learning from them. Now in

verse 16 she says, ““Do not consider your maidservant as a worthless woman, for I have spoken until now out of my great concern and provocation.”” (1:16) She’s saying I have spoken now out of my great concern and my provocation. In other words my spirit is provoked and I am hurting. And I am speaking to God because I have such a concern, I have such a need, I have such a void. And that’s what you’re to do. Do you know when God says in 1 Thessalonians, chapter 5 that [we are to pray without ceasing,] that He is talking about being in constant communication with God? I mean this is what prayer is. You know, we have a National Convention here in Chattanooga, and I did a series in our seminars on, on the power of prayer and if you want to get that CD, you can get it and I can take you even deeper on this subject. You can find out about it by going to our website preceptsforlife.com or you can pick up the phone and call 1-800-763-1990; that’s 1-800-763-1990. And you can order that tape. But in that message, in that teaching on prayer what I wanted people to understand is that yes, there are times of formal prayer; yes, there are times when you go and you shut the door, so to speak, and you get alone with God and you get on your knees or on your face, or sitting up or whatever. But God wants us to be in constant communication with Him. And so she says, ““...I have spoken until now out of my great concern and provocation.” Then Eli answered and said, ““Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him.”” (1:16a-17) You got it; I knew you would see it. You would mark ask the same way that you marked spoke and poured out my soul and speaking and praying and prayed, because he says that you have asked of Him. What is prayer? Prayer is communicating with God. Prayer is talking to God. Prayer is pouring out your soul. Prayer is asking God about everything. And that’s why we pray without ceasing. That’s why as we walk through life, as we walk through our day we’re constantly talking to God. I’m saying God, where are my keys? I’m saying God, please help me, I need a parking space and you say but God is the

omnipotent ruler of the universe. He is the Lord of hosts. You told us that. You saw it in 1 Samuel. He's not going to care about a parking space. Listen, He cares about everything. He knows when one of your hairs comes out in the brush or out in the shower and clogs up the water so it doesn't go down. But anyway, He knows that. And if He knows when a little sparrow, and there are a whole lot of those birds, fall to the ground, He wants you to know and talk to Him about everything in your life. That's why you pray without ceasing. So now she has this hope and, "She said, 'Let your maidservant find favor in your sight.' So the woman went her way and ate..." Remember, she was in such pain she wasn't eating, "...and her face was no longer sad." (1:18) What did she know? She knew that God had heard. "Then they arose early in the morning and [they] worshipped before the Lord..." To worship means they bowed down before Him, "...and [they] returned again to their house in Ramah." (1:19a) All right now, you said I thought they lived in Ramathaim-zophim. Yes, but here's an abbreviation of it. It's Ramah; double underline it in green. "...And Elkanah had relations with...his wife, and the Lord remembered her." (1:19b) Remember when you colored the Lord closed her womb in yellow and you marked it twice in verse 5 and in verse 6. Well now you want to go down to verse 19 and mark it. But watch what happens. Then it says in verse 20, "[And] It came about in due time, 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.'" (1:20) Every time she looked at Samuel she knew God answered prayer. God answers prayer. When you look at that answer you know God hears. God answers. Don't despair; He's there.

PART TWO

Welcome back my friend. Don't you love what you're learning? I love studying it myself and I love sharing it with you. And doesn't it just absolutely blow your mind what you can see when you stop and when you

slow down and when you mark the text? I mean just stop and look at your study guide right now. Stop and look at what you have marked just on 1 Samuel, chapter 1. As you have marked it, you have learned who this chapter is about, what is happening in this chapter. This is when Hannah is praying to God and getting a child from God. When Hannah, a barren woman, has prayed to God and God has answered. And we have seen; we finally got to verse 20. You say you know it takes time to do this. You are right it takes time. But I want to ask you a question. If this is the Word of God, precious one, if this is the Word of God, if these are the very words of God, don't you think it's important to hang on to every word of God? I mean to listen carefully, to treasure and savor these words and to make sure that you understand exactly what He's saying. I mean if you're saying yes, you are right on. If you're saying no, I don't have time for this, then I want you to know that someday you are going to be so ashamed when you stand before God. And you are going to be so ashamed because what are you going to say to Him? Are you going to say radio, television, you know, shopping, business, work exercise; I had to do all those God, I didn't have time to listen to You. I didn't have time to study Your Word. I get so concerned today when I hear women say that's too hard. That's too difficult. Or men say I just don't have time. They say I don't have time. We don't have time for God. I mean that's why we're in the state that we're in. We need to know who God is. And we need to know how we are to live. Well what have we seen? We have seen that Hannah has given birth to Samuel. She calls Samuel I have asked him of the Lord. In other words, Samuel means asked of God. And so she looks at this child each time and she says hey, there is an answer to prayer. There is a proof that it is God who not only shuts the womb, but God who opens the womb. You may say, but she had the child because her priest said to her, go in peace and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you've asked of Him. Listen, no priest, no human being has the power to answer your prayers, only God. And so what

Eli was doing was simply pronouncing a blessing on her, but she didn't have the child because Eli decided she should have a child, not because he waved his hand and said go in peace, but because God decided that she would have a child. Now why did God decide that she would have a child? Because of the timing of it all and this is so beautiful. So what I want to do is I want to take you back and I want to show you the flow now. Remember in the first day of this series, what I did was I told you that Samuel fits into the flow of God's Word. You've got to remember that from Genesis all the way up through Kings and Chronicles, which are synonymous books so to speak; not entirely, but you know they're synonymous books, all the way through you have the history of Israel. And then you have the history of Israel coming later. But watch what happens. Samuel is written in the days of judges, because you're going to see that Eli, who was a priest, also judged Israel for forty years. And so you're going to come to that verse and its 1 Samuel 4, verse 18 and it says, "Thus he [, Eli] judged Israel forty years." (4:18b) So it's the days of judges. You're going to see that Samuel, this boy that was born was a judge. He was the last of the judges. So the days of judges were dark days because the children of Israel were doing what was evil in the sight of the Lord. Now I want you to remember that, because it had even moved from the ordinary children of Israel into the priesthood. You say whoa, the priesthood, what do you mean? Well, you'll find out. And if you want to go ahead and you can read on in the Word of God in 1 Samuel and you'll see for yourself what I mean by that. So the days of the judges were days of idolatry. They were days of immorality. They were days of adultery and homosexuality. They were days of internal war. They were days when every man was doing what was right in his own eyes. And now we come to the book of 1 Samuel and what we're going to see is the light dawn in the midst of that darkness. You say, but wait a minute; so where does Ruth fit into this big picture. Well Ruth fits into the days of Judges. Now we don't know exactly when, but we think it fits more into the days

around the time of Gideon, possibly that the book of Ruth fits in. But now watch, let me show you something, because this is going to be so neat. In Ruth, chapter 4 Ruth ends with this: Let me start at verse 21, because it's better, "...and to Salmon was born Boaz..." Well we know from the book of Ruth that Boaz is the main character along with Ruth and Naomi, because Boaz is the kinsman redeemer. And Boaz redeems Ruth, marries her so that Ruth has a child and that child that is born is named Obed. "...to Salmon was born Boaz...to Boaz, Obed," Now watch, "...and to Obed was born Jesse, and to Jesse, David." (Ruth 4:21-22) You know what? You're going to meet David. You know where you're going to meet him? You're going to meet him in the book of 1 Samuel. It's so beautiful to watch the flow. And as you watch the flow what you see them doing, is you see them moving from darkness to light. You see that there's light at the end of the tunnel. Remember we opened up with the fact that God knows the thoughts that He has for us, thoughts of good and not of calamity to give us a future and to give us hope. Well what do you see in Hannah's life? You see that God, although He had closed her womb, God had a future for Hannah. God had hope for Hannah. But not only did He have a future for Hannah and hope for Hannah in giving her a son, but this son that was asked of God, Samuel is the hope and the future so to speak, for Israel at this time to bring them out of this darkness and to be a prophet to them and show them the light and then eventually to anoint David the king of Israel. So it is going to fit in so beautifully. But what I want you to see is this: ask of God. And then look at those answers to prayer and know He lives and He hears.