1 Samuel 1

Birthing a work of God that impacts deeply

Important to not just view the OT stories as a history lesson only. They must be applied to our lives today and through the lens of the New Covenant. Hannah cried out to God for a son, which was her heart’s desire. When Samuel was born she gave this precious gift back to the Lord. Samuel grew to become the bridge between the dark ages of the Judges and the fresh times of the prophets which ushered in the Kings. He was a powerful instrument of God in the Nation of Israel.

The Lord Almighty is wanting to birth new works of the Spirit in our lives that will bear much fruit. How do we cooperate with the Holy Spirit as he seeks to conceive such a vision within us and lead us to the time of birth? What is the process for deep impacting works of God to come to light?

Let’s examine the birth of Samuel as we discover what Hannah went through to receive her gift who proved to be a true “ Godsend”.

What are the steps to give birth to the vision God has prepared for us to do?

1. Through a period of barrenness ( 1:2 )

* + Unproductive in the natural
  + No evidence to the natural eye
  + A hidden work of God is going on
  + Q. How can we learn to view this time as a time of preparation and not rejection by God?

2. Through provocation ( 1:6)

* + Q. Why did Penninah taunt Hannah so much?
  + Q. What does such provocation do to us?

3. Through a long duration ( 1:7)

* + Purifying is a careful and deep work
  + A gestation period for a baby cannot be rushed
  + Maturity is not an overnight work
  + Q. How does James 1:3-5 add light to Hannah’s experience?
  + And to ours?

4. Through the sovereign hand of God ( 1:5)

* + We must lay down all bitterness
  + “ Acceptance with joy” as per Hinds feet on high places ( book)
  + What did Jesus say about such sovereign works of God in John 9:3?

5. Through heart felt prayer

* + This is the turning point
  + Here we die to ourselves
  + This is the goal of the crushing phase

6. Through surrender of the gift

* + Not just for our own benefit
  + Give back to God what he gave us
  + Q. How does 1 Cor 12:7 speak into this?

7. Through judgement by others ( 1:13, 14)

* + Yet another part of the crushing process
  + The cry to God is misinterpreted as coming from a sinful heart
  + Q. How can this keep us from being real with each other?

8. Through a blessing by other believers ( 1:17)

* + Where two or three agree Jesus is there in our midst
  + God now draws others into the birth process
  + Q. How important is it to pray Eph 1: 18 for each other?

9. Through faith ( 1:18)

* + Q. How is it clear Hannah now believes God for a miracle?
  + We need to Thank God prior to the event
  + Anxiety and faith cannot co – exist

10. Through the natural cycle of events ( 1:20)

* + Spiritual yet breaking into the natural
  + Q. How can a miracle often be missed by those looking on?

11. Testifying to the miracle ( 1:21-28)

* + Testifying has a cost
  + We do need to hand back the work of God to the giver
  + Q. Why can keep us from handing the gift back to God?