

PRAYERS

OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



EPISODE 2

1 SAMUEL

O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son...

When did you pray with a broken heart, praying and weeping? What did you want the Lord to do?

How often do you think Hannah prayed this prayer? How often and how long does God want me to pray for something?

My thoughts

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My prayer

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I prayed this prayer for four years while I was waiting for a son. My two-month-old daughter had died of a heart defect and we prayed and wept for four years for another child. What did I gain during the waiting and the weeping? Deeper intimacy with the Lord. Was that how long God wanted me to pray? Was it the length of time, the number of years? I don't know. But I gained intimacy with the Lord and an answer to my prayers. It was definitely worth it!

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JONAH

In my distress I called to the LORD and He answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help and You listened to my cry.

What prompted Jonah to pray? What prompts you to pray? If Jesus is praying for me, why do I need to pray?

What encouragement do you get from knowing that Jonah turned to God even when it seemed hopeless? How does seeing Jonah surrender to God help you in a time of crisis?

My thoughts

My prayer

Jonah is no different from me, waiting until there is no way out before I cry out to God. Jonah cries out for divine help when he realizes he can't survive the raging sea without it. He knows that even the waters of a violent storm belong to God. He cries out in praise and surrender. No petition. No asking for anything. Sometimes I need to cry out in praise and surrender. No petition; no asking for anything.