

Scripture reading: 1 Samuel 1:1-18

And her (Hannah"s) face was no longer sad.

There was a man by the name Elkanah who was from the mountains of Ephraim. He had two wives, the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other was Peninnah. He loved Hannah more than the other. But Hannah had no children. Each year they would go as a family to worship and to make sacrifices to God at Jerusalem. While distributing the offerings among his family, he would give Hannah a double portion compared to others. Hannah did not have children as God had shut her womb. Because of her barrenness, Peninnah would mock at her and make her miserable. Each year she would make Hannah weep. Once Hannah rose up, went to the temple and poured out her heart in the presence of God saying, "God, give Your maid servant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life". After that she returned home having cast all her burdens in the presence of God. Her face was no longer sad.

Question:

Hannah who had wept year after year was now no longer sad. What was the reason behind this?

Answer:

Prayer! Yes, it was prayer that changed the sad countenance of Hannah and brought in joy. Hannah had a husband who had loved her above all others. His love upon her was not just in words but he showed it in action in all ways possible. But when Peninnah shot arrows of words to suppress and depress her, neither the words of her husband or his love could comfort her. Hannah was broken inside each time she was mocked by Peninnah. One fine day, when she went into the presence of God and poured out her sorrow and affliction and said her needs to God, she received peace. When we share our burdens to people, it will never subside but rather add-on to it. But when you get into the presence of God and cast all your burdens there, your face will no longer be sad. Pray! Your burdens will disappear.

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

Prayer

Fill us with the Spirit of prayer Lord. Help us to be burdened for others and to pray for them. Prayer is our victory. Answer our prayers and help us grow in faith Lord. Amen