

Donna's Devotional

Affecting the Answer

"Thy prayer is heard. . . . and thy alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God."
Acts 10:31

When we feel an urgency to have our prayers answered, we often consider *doing more, giving more, or serving more*. Some people vow to God: if He will only help them out of their financial bind, heal their loved one, ease their pain, comfort their loneliness, or provide some special blessing, then, they will turn their lives around and serve Him. When receiving a favorable answer matters so much, we feel compelled to offer something of value up to God to persuade Him to give the outcome we want so badly.

Hannah understood what it was like to ache for God's provision. She wanted a son so badly that she was willing to give him back to God. Not just to raise Him for the Lord, but to actually give him up to be raised in the temple. She promised to "give him to the Lord all the days of his life" (I Samuel 1:11). The Lord accepted her offering and gave Hannah a son named Samuel who served the Lord faithfully all his days.

God went on to bless Hannah with more sons and daughters because she had faithfully kept her vow. Why did God bless Hannah in the first place? I believe He knew the motive for her request was to glorify Him. She wanted a son so that she could give him to the Lord.

Next time we have an urgent request we need to reflect upon Hannah's vow. Is our request really for God's glory or selfish gain? Are we really willing to give up our desires to see God glorified?