

Ladies Prayer International Newsletter



United Pentecostal Church August 2016



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Faith in the Midst of Desperation

By Liane Grant



Sometimes our children do things that cause us to pray desperate prayers. Our mother's heart feels that if God does not intervene, the situation will become intolerable, either for us or them.

Desperation is a volatile emotion; it can steer us in either a negative or positive direction. We must not try to manipulate God with desperate prayers. "God, you have to take care of this now, or" Or what? We will have a nervous breakdown? We will stop praying for our children?

No! In all things, we must pray for God's will. "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us" (1 John 5:14). God has not promised that we will never feel pain; sometimes it is needed to draw us back to Him. Do we have enough faith to pray for His will in our children's lives, even if they have to suffer in order for their souls to be saved?

Our desperation does not dictate God's timing. For over thirty years, I prayed daily for healing from sleep problems. On a typical night, I would wake up eight to ten times; and in a hotel, it

was more like forty or fifty times. The fatigue spurred some desperate prayers, especially when I was caring for my young children while working full-time and being a pastor's wife.

I decided I would get my body into bed for eight hours each night, and the rest was up to God. I refused to dwell on my discomfort. Last year, God sent a young preacher from another city to pray for me, and that night there was a remarkable improvement. Later, things improved even more when God led me to commit to a healthy diet.

God answered my desperate prayer long after I thought I needed Him to, because He knew how much I could take, and what I needed to learn through the process. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians 10:13)

As I was preparing to write this article, a song by Lauren Daigle came on the radio: "When you don't move the mountains, I'm asking you to move; when you don't part the waters I wish I could walk through; when you don't give the answers as I cry out to you; I will trust, I will trust, I will trust in you." Let's hold on to our faith in the midst of desperation.

Note: Liane and her husband Scott are career church planters in Montreal-Quebec under the UPCI Metro Missions program. Liane serves as the Quebec Ladies Ministries president and is the founder and overseer of The King's Translators, a group of volunteers dedicated to providing apostolic resources in French. She is currently doing her doctoral research with this translation group.

Prayer of Desperation

By Rebecca Akers



Hannah had no children.

It was the fear of many, but in her time it was more than a fear. It was a burden - something she had to carry. As she entered the doors of the church (Temple) the once audible murmur of the ladies came to a halt as they noticed her presence. The way they looked at her was as if she did not

belong there.

Everywhere she went, looks of judgement burned through the back of her head. Days went by and she did not eat. She couldn't. Her heart was too heavy and her mind was too weak. Her husband questioned. "Why aren't you eating? Why are you crying? Do you not love me?" But he would never feel the way she did.

This continued - year in, year out. It seemed a relentless cycle of pain, hurting, and longing.

Hannah grew bitter and angry. *Why me God? Why did You curse me with this? Do You not love me? Can't You see how everyone looks at me? How they judge me and put me down?*

So she grew weary.

She grew desperate.

She prayed a desperate prayer and vowed that if God would give her a child, she would give it

back to Him.

And there in that Temple she poured herself out until nothing was left. Until her spirit was raw and she was no longer able to speak. That day, as she left the temple "her countenance was no more sad."

Desperation is a weapon. When men and women of God are desperate, nothing can stop them. Especially when they pray. Many places in the Bible people cried out to God for help, for peace, for guidance, for something to fill the emptiness they were fighting. If you are in that place today - weary, raw, desperate - God is willing to meet you in your place of desperation.

Editor's Note: Rebecca is a remarkable young ladies who loves and serves the Lord with all her heart. She is actively involved in youth ministry, teaches Sunday school, sings in choir, praise team and plays the keyboard. She is also involved in the sign team, puppet team and outreach. She is on Student Council and is Vice President of her school's chapter of the National Honor Society. In her spare time she volunteers at the hospital each week. Rebecca assist me in distribution of this newsletter in the various languages. I am proud to say she is my granddaughter! -Debbie Akers

The Prayer of Desperation

By Dianne Showalter



A prayer of desperation is a prayer no one has to tell us to pray, one that puts us on our faces, pleading with God for mercy. The biggest challenge is knowing how to make it a productive prayer that leaves us feeling free when we arise from our time with Him. (Read I Samuel 1:7, 15; I Samuel 2:1.)

One of the turning points in my life was when I heard missionary Nona Freeman telling about her desperation for her grandsons' salvation. She wept as she daily called their names in prayer. One day the Lord asked her, "Do you believe me for this?" And she said, "Yes, Lord." Then He said, "If you believe, quit begging Me and start rejoicing!" It was then that she held their pictures up to God, calling their names before Him, saying, "Lord, I thank you for saving my grandson! It *will* be done in Jesus' name!" Eventually, all were saved!

When we are praying with people to receive the Holy Ghost, sometimes we have to encourage them to praise instead of beg. True repentance is very necessary, but we must move to the next level to receive more than forgiveness. We ask Him for what we want with tears and passion, but we don't have to live like that daily. We must lay our burdens at His feet and begin to trust and proclaim His Word, rejoicing that He *is* doing the work!

In 1985 we were called to be missionaries to El Salvador. I was willing, but felt anxiety over taking my children into a war-torn country. At a ladies conference I heard a monologue of Hannah taking her small child, Samuel, to leave him at the Temple. I could almost feel the pain of her sacrifice. I wept for two hours, and then I heard the Lord tell me, "If you want to stay and take care of your children I will permit you to, but if you will go, I will take care of them." My tears turned to thankfulness and trust, deliverance and joy! I trusted those words many times, even as bullets entered our house, and God has been faithful to His Word!

When my daughter was wracked with pain from rheumatoid arthritis. I cried to the Lord, "Why, Lord? She has always served You. We have faith for her healing. Are You hearing?" At that

point I mentally picked her up and laid her in the arms of Jesus. I told Him that I was giving her back to Him to do whatever He wanted. It was a hard battle, but the heavy burden lifted, and trust began. He heard my cry!

Note:

Dianne Showalter has worked beside her husband as missionary for thirty years, traveled to over 100 nations, and spoken in many ladies meetings. Her passion is to share this precious gospel and to help people live a victorious life in Him. Her greatest joy is to know her children walk in truth.

Desperate!

By Wanda Chavis



Desperation is a place of no hope with intolerable circumstances. How we react to despair can honor or dishonor God.

For years, Hannah faced her desperation with weeping, sulking, and sorrow. Remember her? Elkanah's wife?

"...Hannah had no children" (I Samuel 1:2, NKJV).

There's no pain like the ache of empty arms. It was always with Hannah - but there were times when the reality of her situation was more than she could bear. When they went to Shiloh to worship and offer their family's sacrifice, Elkanah would dole out the family portions to celebrate God's acceptance of their peace offering. She felt so empty and hopeless, even though he gave her the choice cut and tried to honor her. During those times, seeing all of his children and their mother, Peninnah, laughing and eating together was like rubbing salt in her wound.

Year after year she would refuse to eat, as she sat there in humiliation, wiping away unbidden tears. Peninnah reveled in those moments, taunting her with her eyes and sharp comments.

Year after year Hannah's desperation would drive her out of the celebration, as her tears gave way to sobs. For hours, Elkanah would try to comfort her, frustrated because he didn't know how to make things better.

However, this particular year, her heart was so desperate, she never made it to the privacy of her tent to weep, but fell on the floor of the temple, crying. Her heart was laid bare before God.

"Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life" (I Samuel 1:9-11).

Eli saw her desperate prayer and mistakenly thought she was drunk; but after listening, he gave her his blessing and spoke *hope* into her hopeless heart!

The continuation of this story is intriguing and colorful, but I want to end my thoughts here. What are you doing with your desperation? Weeping? Complaining? Pouting?

I challenge you to cry out to God, commit your future to Him, and make hopeful plans!

Your desperation is God's opportunity for hope and healing. Don't give up. Allow the word of God to speak life into your situation. Commit your plans to God. Make a vow. He will give you joy for sorrow. The garment of praise will dissolve the spirit of heaviness. (Read Isaiah 61.)

Note: Wanda Chavis serves the North Carolina District as Ladies Ministries president and is an anointed speaker and a published author. Wanda also works as a women's health and hydration consultant. She is a proud mother and MawMaw to her grandchildren.

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Debbie Akers

From the Editor

God is doing mighty things! God is opening many doors and this newsletter is now available in English, Spanish, French, German, Dutch, Portuguese, Russian, Greek, Arabic, Farsi, Czech, Chinese, Swahili, Hungarian, Tagalog, Indonesian, Romanian, Italian, Norwegian and Polish.

Please help us pray for a Serbian, Bulgarian and Japanese translators.

If you wish to receive any of the above translations please send request to LadiesPrayerInternational@aol.com and we will be delighted to add you to our mailing list!

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Who we are . . . Since 1999: Ladies Prayer Intl. is made up of women worldwide, who meet on the first Monday of each month to unite in focused prayer for their children and the children of the local church and community.

Our Mission . . . We are committed to the spiritual preservation of this generation and beyond and the spiritual restoration of previous generations.

Our Need . . . Committed women who will join together on the first Monday of each month and pray focused prayer for their children.

Three Priorities of Prayer...

- The salvation of our children (Isaiah 49:25; Psalm 144:12; Isaiah 43:5-6).
- That they take ownership of the faith at an accountable age (I John 2:25-28; James 1:25).
- That they enter into the ministry of the Lord's harvest (Matthew 9:38).



Ministries we support...

TUPELO CHILDREN'S MANSION

Children live in an environment with opportunity to grow spiritually, physically and emotionally.

NEW BEGINNINGS Maternity care for birthmothers considering adoption and child placement for adoptive couples.



HAVEN OF HOPE A program for girls ages 13-16 with behavioral and emotional issues.

LIGHTHOUSE RANCH for BOYS Healing broken and hurting lives of teen boys.



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