

Greetings in the name of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

CALL TO ME – Remember Me, Lord

Text: 1 Samuel 1:9–20

Key Verse: 1 Samuel 1:11

Good morning Church! Praise the Lord! Today we continue our sermon series, **CALL TO ME**. Our theme comes from Jeremiah 33:3, where the Lord says, “**Call to Me and I will answer you.**” Throughout this series, God has been teaching us different lessons about prayer. We learned to pray when we are suffering. We learned to pray with faith. We learned to stand in the gap and pray for others. Jesus taught us how to pray, and in Gethsemane we learned to surrender our will to the Father’s will. Today we come to another experience that almost every Christian will face: **What do we do when we pray, but the answer does not come quickly?** What happens when we pray the same prayer again and again and nothing seems to change? Is God listening? Has God forgotten us? Should we stop praying? Today we meet a woman named Hannah who helps us answer these questions.

Hannah’s story is found in 1 Samuel chapter 1. She was married to a man named Elkanah. Elkanah loved Hannah, but Hannah carried deep pain because she had no children. To make her situation even harder, Peninnah, Elkanah’s other wife, had children and repeatedly provoked Hannah because she had none. The Bible tells us this happened year after year. Imagine carrying the same pain year after year. Imagine watching other people receive the very thing you have been asking God for. Imagine praying faithfully while your circumstances remain the same. Hannah knew that kind of pain.

Maybe somebody here understands Hannah. Your situation may be different, but perhaps you have also asked, “**Lord, have You forgotten me?**” Hannah’s story gives us a beautiful answer: **God had not forgotten Hannah.** Even when she could not see what God was doing, God knew her pain, heard her prayer, and was working according to His purpose.

I. Bring Your Pain to the Lord — 1 Samuel 1:9–10

Verse 10 says that Hannah was “**deeply hurt**” and that she prayed to the Lord and wept with many tears. I love the honesty of the Bible. Scripture does not hide Hannah’s tears. It does not tell us that because she believed in God, she never became discouraged. Hannah was a woman of faith, but she was also a woman carrying tremendous pain. **Faith does not mean that we never cry. Faith means that we know where to take our tears.** Hannah could have allowed her pain to make her bitter toward God. She could have walked away from worship. Instead, Hannah took her pain to the Lord.

Church, there is a big difference between **carrying pain alone and carrying pain into the presence of God.** Sometimes we carry things for years that God has been inviting us to bring to Him. We replay the situation in our minds. We worry about tomorrow. We ask ourselves many questions. But Hannah teaches us that when our hearts are heavy, we should go into God’s presence. Psalm 62:8 says, “**Pour out your hearts before Him. God is our refuge.**” God is not uncomfortable with your tears. He already knows what is inside your heart, and He invites you to bring it before Him.

Notice that Hannah’s pain continued **year after year.** This was not a one-day problem. Sometimes we think that if God does not answer quickly, He must not be listening. But **God’s delay does not mean God’s absence.** The Bible does not promise that every delayed prayer will eventually receive exactly the answer we want, but Scripture teaches us that God remains faithful while we wait. His timing may be different from ours, but His character has not changed.

Peninnah provoked Hannah, but Hannah eventually turned her attention away from Peninnah and toward God. Sometimes comparison makes our pain heavier. We look at other people and ask, “Why did they receive it? Why did their door open? Why did God answer them?” But Hannah’s breakthrough did not begin when Peninnah changed. It began when Hannah turned her eyes toward the Lord.

Church, remember this: **Pain can make us bitter, or pain can drive us deeper into prayer.** Hannah chose prayer. So whatever burden you brought into church today, do not run away from God because of it. **Run toward Him.** If you are hurting, come. If you are disappointed, come. If you are waiting, come. Bring your pain to the Lord because the God who heard Hannah is still the God who hears His children today.

II. Pour Out Your Heart Before the Lord — 1 Samuel 1:11–16

Now Hannah moves from her pain into prayer. Verse 11 says, “**Making a vow, she pleaded, ‘LORD of Armies, if You will take notice of Your servant’s affliction, remember and not forget me, and give Your servant a son, I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life.’**” Notice how Hannah addresses God: “**LORD of Armies.**” Hannah feels

powerless, but she comes to the God who has all power. She cannot change her situation. She cannot create the answer herself. But she knows the One who rules over everything. Prayer begins when we recognize that what is impossible for us is not impossible for God.

Then Hannah says the words that give us the title of today's sermon: **"Remember me and not forget me."** Does this mean God had forgotten Hannah? No. God never forgot her. He knew every tear she had cried. He knew every painful year she had waited. When Scripture speaks about God "remembering" someone, it does not mean that God suddenly recalls something He had forgotten. For example, Genesis 8:1 says that God remembered Noah. God had not forgotten Noah inside the ark. It means that God acted according to His faithfulness and purpose. So when Hannah cries, **"Remember me, Lord,"** she is saying, "Lord, look upon me in my pain. Show Your mercy. Act according to Your goodness." Church, you may sometimes **feel forgotten, but you are never forgotten by God.** God knows your name. God knows your situation. God knows how long you have waited.

We also need to understand Hannah's vow correctly. Hannah says that if God gives her a son, she will give him back to the Lord. Hannah is not making a business deal with God. She is not saying, "If I give You something, You must give me something." We cannot purchase God's blessings with our promises. Instead, Hannah's prayer reveals **surrender.** The very thing she desires most, she is willing to place into God's hands. Her prayer begins with desire, but it moves toward surrender. Mature prayer does not only say, **"Lord, give this to me."** Mature prayer also says, **"Lord, whatever You give me belongs to You. My family, my future, and everything You give me belongs to You."**

Verses 12 and 13 tell us that Hannah continued praying before the Lord. Her lips were moving, but her voice could not be heard. Eli saw her and misunderstood her. He thought she was drunk. Hannah was already hurting because Peninnah had provoked her, and now even the priest misunderstood her. Sometimes people will misunderstand your tears. They may see what is happening outside without knowing what you are carrying inside. But there is One who never misunderstands you. **God understands even the prayer that other people cannot hear.**

Hannah answers Eli in verse 15, **"I am a woman with a broken heart...I've been pouring out my heart before the LORD."** What a beautiful description of prayer: **"pouring out my heart."** Hannah did not give God a polished speech. She poured out her soul. Sometimes our most powerful prayers are not our most beautiful prayers. Sometimes they are only a few words: "Lord, help me." "Lord, remember me." "Lord, I need You." God is not measuring our vocabulary. He is looking at our hearts.

Church, prayer is not a performance. If you are broken, pray broken. If you are confused, tell Him. If you are afraid, tell Him. Bring your disappointment, your questions, and your tears to God. **Do not only carry your pain; pour it out before God.** Worry keeps the burden in our hands. Prayer places the burden into God's hands. Hannah came carrying years of sorrow and poured it before the Lord. And now something begins to change—not yet around Hannah, but **inside Hannah.**

III. Leave Your Burden with the Lord — 1 Samuel 1:17–18

After listening to Hannah, Eli said in verse 17, **“Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant the request you’ve made of Him.”** Then look carefully at verse 18: **“Then Hannah went on her way; she ate and no longer looked despondent.”** Church, has Samuel been born yet? **No.** Has Hannah become pregnant yet? **No.** Has her situation changed? **No.** But something has changed inside Hannah. She came into prayer carrying the burden herself, but she left prayer trusting God with the burden.

This is one of the deepest lessons in Hannah's story: **Faith can give you peace before God gives you the answer.** Sometimes we say, “When God answers my prayer, then I will have peace. When this problem is solved, then I will rejoice.” Hannah shows us another way. Her peace came before Samuel. She had placed her request before the Lord and trusted Him with what happened next.

This does not mean Hannah knew exactly what God would do. It means she had placed the outcome into His hands. This is where prayer becomes trust. We pray sincerely. We ask boldly. Then we say, **“Lord, I have told You what is in my heart. Now I trust You with what happens next.”**

This also does not mean that we never pray about the same matter again. Jesus taught persistence in prayer. We can continue bringing our requests before God. Leaving the burden with Him means that we stop living as though everything depends upon us. We trust His wisdom, His timing, and His goodness.

Look again at Hannah. At the beginning, she was crying and could not eat. After prayer, she got up and ate. **The answer has not arrived, but peace has arrived.** Samuel has not arrived, but Hannah's heart is resting in God. Sometimes, before God puts the answer into our hands, **He puts His peace into our hearts.**

IV. Trust the God Who Remembers — 1 Samuel 1:19–20

Now we come to the turning point. Verse 19 says, **“The LORD remembered her.”** As we learned earlier, this does not mean God suddenly remembered something He had forgotten. God had seen every tear and heard every prayer. It means that the time had come for God to act according to His purpose.

Verse 20 says, **“After some time, Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, because she said, ‘I requested him from the LORD.’”** Notice those words: **“After some time.”** Hannah prayed, but the answer did not appear the next morning. There was still waiting. Prayer and patience often walk together. Sometimes God answers quickly. Sometimes He asks us to wait. Sometimes His answer is different from what we requested. But our confidence must be in the character of God, not simply in receiving the outcome we desire.

And there was something much bigger happening in Hannah’s story. **Hannah thought she needed a son, but Israel needed a prophet.** Hannah was praying about her personal pain while God was working toward a greater purpose. Samuel would become one of Israel’s great leaders. He would speak God’s Word to the nation. He would anoint kings. Hannah could only see her pain, but God could see the entire story.

Church, **sometimes we are praying about one chapter while God is writing the whole book.** We see today; God sees tomorrow. We see our immediate need; God sees His greater purpose. That is why we can trust Him even when we do not understand His timing.

But we must not turn Hannah’s story into a formula. The message is not, **“If you pray long enough, God will eventually give you exactly what you ask for.”** Scripture does not promise that. Paul asked God to remove his thorn, but God gave him sufficient grace. Jesus prayed in Gethsemane and surrendered Himself to the Father’s will. Hannah received Samuel. Paul received grace. Jesus went to the cross. **Different answers, but the same faithful God.** Biblical prayer is bringing our desires honestly before God and trusting Him with the answer.

That brings us back to our title: **CALL – Remember Me, Lord.** Maybe you have been praying for something for a long time. Hannah’s story reminds you today: **God has not forgotten you.** Keep praying. Keep trusting. Keep worshiping. Tell God what is in your heart, but keep your hands open and trust His wisdom with the outcome.

Conclusion

Church, remember Hannah’s journey:

She came with pain. She poured it out in prayer. She left with peace. And in God's time, she saw His purpose.

Pain → Prayer → Peace → God's Purpose.

But ultimately, our confidence in prayer is greater than Hannah's story. Our confidence is in **Jesus Christ**. Hebrews 4:15–16 tells us that because Jesus is our great High Priest, we can **“approach the throne of grace with boldness”** to receive mercy and find grace in our time of need.

We do not pray to a distant God who does not understand suffering. Jesus knows sorrow. Jesus knows rejection. Jesus knows tears. Jesus knows what it means to pray in agony. And because Jesus went to the cross for our sins and rose again, everyone who trusts in Him can come confidently to the Father.

So Church, what prayer have you almost stopped praying? What burden have you been carrying? What delay has made you wonder whether God remembers you?

Today, bring it to Him.

You may come with tears like Hannah. That is okay. You may not have beautiful words. That is okay. Simply pour out your heart before the Lord and trust Him with the outcome.

When your heart is hurting, **CALL**. When the answer is delayed, **CALL**. When you feel forgotten, **CALL**. When you cannot understand what God is doing, **CALL**.

And when you call, pray like Hannah:

“REMEMBER ME, LORD.”

Then trust the God who never forgets His children.

Pain brought Hannah to prayer. Prayer brought Hannah to peace. And in God's time, His purpose became clear.

Amen.