



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

Whom the LORD Honors

Why then do you scorn my sacrifices and my offerings that I commanded for my dwelling, and honor your sons above me by fattening yourselves on the choicest parts of every offering of my people Israel?' Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: 'I promised that your house and the house of your father should go in and out before me forever,' but now the LORD declares: 'Far be it from me, for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed. –1st Samuel 2:29-30

Messes are messy. They need cleaning up. But cleaning up can be a messy process. The idea's simple. Out with the old. In with the new. Throw out the trash. Wipe up the dirt. Clean the good stuff and replace the junk. But this process usually makes a bigger mess while you sort things out to clean them up.

There's a sense of triumph when you're done, though. Chaos becomes order. Muck turns squeaky clean. The outcome is so pleasing—so glorious. God's glory shines in the way He cleans up messes. And faith means trusting God in the midst of the mess. He knows the way out of even the worst messes.

Hannah's life was a mess. Hannah was the favorite of two wives. Polygamy was never God's preference, though in the Old Testament, He tolerated it. But Hannah couldn't bear children. Peninnah—the other wife—could, and she made sure her rival knew it. Hannah found her mockery unbearable.

While silently imploring God in the Tabernacle—promising to give her child to the Lord's service—Hannah caught the eye of Eli the priest. Her lips moved as she prayed, but she uttered no sound, so he thought she was drunk. When she poured out the reasons for her grief to the aging priest, he blessed her and assured her that God would answer her request—which He did.

After Hannah weaned her son, Samuel, she brought him back to the tabernacle and dedicated him to God's service. Five children later, Hannah lived a life of rejoicing in the abundance of God's blessing, and once a year she brought Samuel a new robe to wear. But God's blessing to Hannah was part of a far bigger plan.

God's people can be very messy. Israel cycled from ordered goodness to chaotic evil and persisted on a downward trend. But these cycles contain vignettes of God working in individual lives to make sure these cycles didn't repeat endlessly but moved forward to accomplish His intended outcome. In the Bible, good news is more than an idea. It's God working out His plan for the world in individual lives.

In the days of Israel's judges, life was a mess. God's people needed cleaning up. The "best of the best" were living like the worst of the worst. Intertwined with Hannah's story is a scene in the life of Eli, a principled priest, and his two sons. Eli knew what it meant to follow God, but he indulged his sons, so they did whatever they pleased—at the expense of everyone else and of the will of God.

To say they made a mess of things is an understatement. Instead of eating just their assigned portion of the sacrifices, they made sure they got the very best and as much as they wanted—even if they had to force God's people to give it up. They couldn't care less about justice or obeying God's law. Instead they indulged their "interest" in whatever their hearts desired—including the young women who served at God's house. They used the privilege of serving God as a way to serve their lusts. Eli's indulgence of his sons brought the spiritual collapse of God's chosen people.

Thrilled that God gave her baby Samuel, Hannah wrote a hymn, praising God for the way He sorts things out and cleans up our messes. The Lord blesses the barren with children, exalts the lowly and humbles the proud. *He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail* (1st Samuel 2:9). In short, God honors those who honor Him.

One day, Hannah's little boy Samuel would anoint David king over Israel. And David's descendant, Jesus, would save us all from sin and reign forever.

To the praise of God's glory.

Continued Daily Bible Reading

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bible in 1 Year	1 st Samuel 5-7	1 st Samuel 8-10	1 st Samuel 11-13	1 st Samuel 14-16	1 st Samuel 17-19	1 st Samuel 20-22	1 st Samuel 23-25
Year 1	Acts 3	Acts 4	Acts 5	Acts 6	Acts 7	Acts 8	Acts 9
Year 2	1 st Kings 5	1 st Kings 6	1 st Kings 7	1 st Kings 8	1 st Kings 9	1 st Kings 10	1 st Kings 11
Year 3	Psalms 126-128	Psalms 129-131	Psalms 132-133	Psalms 134-135	Psalms 136	Psalms 137-138	Psalms 139

Daily Prayer

Not just now, but always, God's Church have a world to save. Ask God for specific guidance in how He would have us leave the mark of His grace and truth on those around us.

Sunday (Church): Ask God to restore the toll that Covid 19 had on Northpoint, by adding back new members and ministries, as He deepens our walk with Christ.

Monday (Home and Family): Pray for situations in your home and family that need cleaning up. Ask God to restore faith and heal lives.

Tuesday (Job/School): Pray to be an asset where you work that keeps things functioning well and brings blessings to your job and those you work with.

Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community): Pray for your home to be tidy and attractive—not just physically but personally and spiritually—to your neighbors.

Thursday (Our Nation): Ask God to restore America's leadership in the world spiritually and socially, so we become a beacon of God's righteousness once again.

Friday (The World): As Northpoint sends out missionaries this summer, pray for their safety, the effectiveness of their ministries, and growth and direction in their lives.

Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing): Identify a mess in or around your life that God has miraculously "cleaned up." Give praise to God for His work in your life.

Prayer for Our Leaders

Seek God's wisdom, strength, and guidance for our staff as they support and equip us for daily spiritual battle.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Tony Chute, Taylor Mendoza, Tamene Menna, Terilyn Brown, Steve Dahlgren, Amber McEwen, and Tyler Van Horssen.
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Woody Armstrong, Steve Flood, Craig Hawkins, Perry Schaefer, and Vinoj Zechariah.
3. **Our Church Staff:** Michele Balga, Bob Brown, John Cordill, Colin Cordill, Megan Cordill, Laura Flood, Noah Gauderman, Carolee Jefferson, Cade MacRitchie, Sam Nguyen, Lauren Sanner, Corie Saunders, Dani Tiqui, Micah Valdez, Christina Vasquez, and Holli Worthington.

Our God Reigns!

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. –Revelation 5:9