



DOVER DAILY DEVOTIONS

Daily Devotionals:

On Sunday, we looked at the story of Hannah from 1 Samuel 1 and saw how God often begins His greatest works through overlooked people and painful places. We saw how Hannah, though deeply loved by her husband, carried a sorrow that human affection could not heal, and how her broken spirit led her to rise in desperate, surrendered prayer. Though she was misunderstood even by the priest, God heard her cries and, in His perfect timing, answered her prayer with the gift of a son. We saw that Hannah's faith did not stop with receiving God's blessing; she fulfilled her vow and returned Samuel back to the Lord, teaching us that true worship is found not just in what we receive, but in what we release. Through Hannah's story, we were reminded that God hears, God remembers, and God uses our surrender to fulfill His greater plans.

Monday: The God Who Sees the Overlooked

Scripture Reading:

“There was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephrathite. He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.” – 1 Samuel 1:1–2 ESV

Devotional:

At the beginning of 1 Samuel, we meet Elkanah, a seemingly ordinary man from a small, unremarkable town, Ramathaim-Zophim. His lineage and home do not stand out in the grand story of Scripture. Yet it is here that God chooses to begin a new chapter of His

redemptive work. Over and over again in the Bible, God bypasses the famous, the powerful, and the influential, working instead through those the world often overlooks.

This truth should both humble and encourage us. It reminds us that no place is too small, no background too plain, and no story too simple to be used by God. Just as Jesus came from Bethlehem and lived in Nazareth, Elkanah's uncelebrated background sets the stage for God's mighty hand to move. What the world deems insignificant, God declares valuable.

Today, you might feel like your life is lived far from the spotlight, tucked away in quiet routines and unseen acts of faithfulness. Take heart. God sees, values, and uses the faithfulness of the forgotten places and people. Your story matters deeply to Him.

Reflection Questions:

1. In what areas of your life do you feel overlooked or unseen?
2. How does it encourage you to know that God works through the seemingly insignificant?
3. What small acts of faithfulness can you offer to God today, trusting He will use them?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You that You see and know every detail of our lives, even when the world passes us by. Help me to remember that my worth is not in the eyes of others but in Your calling. Use my quiet faithfulness for Your glory, and let my heart rest in the truth that You delight in using what seems small to accomplish what is great.

Tuesday: When Blessings Are Divided and Hearts Are Broken

Scripture Reading:

“Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the Lord. On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb.” – 1 Samuel 1:3–5 ESV

Devotional:

In Elkanah's household, love and pain lived side by side. Though he loved Hannah deeply, her inability to bear children brought sorrow to their marriage and led to difficult choices. In the ancient world, a woman's worth was often measured by her ability to produce heirs, and Hannah's empty arms must have felt like a heavy public shame. Elkanah's gifts and double portions could not soothe the deeper ache within her heart.

Hannah's pain reminds us that sometimes, the people who love us most still cannot fill the places where we feel broken. Their kindness, though genuine, cannot reach the hidden wounds of the soul. There are griefs in life that only God can truly understand and heal.

You may be in a season where even the good things cannot quiet your longing or dry your tears. If so, take courage. God is not distant from your sorrow. He knows the weight you carry and stands ready to meet you not just with blessings, but with Himself.

Reflection Questions:

1. Have you ever experienced a time when human comfort was not enough?
2. What desires or dreams do you need to lay before God in prayer today?
3. How does it change your perspective to know that God understands your deepest sorrows?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for loving me in the places where no one else can reach. Help me to trust You with the longings and disappointments that weigh heavily on my heart. Remind me that while human love may fail to fully comfort, Your love never will. Meet me in my need and carry me with Your peace.

Wednesday: Rising to Pray in the Midst of Pain

Scripture Reading:

"After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. And she vowed a vow and said, 'O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.'" – 1 Samuel 1:9–11 ESV

Devotional:

There came a moment when Hannah could no longer simply endure her pain. She rose from her place and went directly to the temple, desperate not for human intervention but for divine help. Her prayer was not polished or rehearsed. It was raw, born out of deep anguish, and filled with an earnestness that can only come from a broken heart.

In her prayer, Hannah not only asked for a son, but vowed to give him back to God. This shows the purity of her heart in suffering. Her greatest desire was not to possess a blessing, but to see God's purposes fulfilled through her life. It was not about personal gain, but about kingdom impact.

When our pain drives us to prayer rather than despair, powerful things can happen. God does not ask us for perfect prayers. He desires honest hearts. Like Hannah, we are invited to rise, even when it hurts, and pour out our souls to the One who fights for us.

Reflection Questions:

1. What is one area of your life where you feel the need to rise and pray today?
2. How does Hannah's example challenge the way you approach God in prayer?
3. What would it look like to offer your requests back to God with open hands?

Prayer:

Lord of Hosts, I come to You in my weakness and need. Teach me to pray not just for my desires, but with a heart ready to surrender everything to You. Help me rise in faith even when it feels easier to sit in despair. I trust that You are listening, even to my broken words.

Thursday: Misunderstood but Not Unseen

Scripture Reading:

"As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. And Eli said to her, 'How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.' But Hannah answered, 'No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.' Then Eli answered, 'Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him.' And she said, 'Let your

servant find favor in your eyes.’ Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.” – 1 Samuel 1:12–18 ESV

Devotional:

As Hannah prayed, Eli the priest misunderstood her deep, silent anguish and accused her of being drunk. It is a painful reminder that even in the most sacred places, and from the most spiritual people, our heartache can be misread. But while Eli watched her lips, God was listening to her heart.

Hannah responded with humility and honesty, correcting the misunderstanding without anger. She knew that ultimately, it did not matter if Eli saw her. What mattered was that God had heard her. In that moment, a blessing was spoken over her, and though nothing had yet changed externally, her heart found peace because she trusted she had been heard.

Sometimes, the greatest gift is not the immediate answer to our prayer, but the assurance that our prayer has been received. When others misjudge us, God understands us. When others miss our pain, God gathers every tear.

Reflection Questions:

1. Have you ever felt misunderstood in your time of suffering?
2. How does it comfort you to know that God hears even what others cannot see?
3. How might you respond with grace the next time someone misunderstands your heart?

Prayer:

God who hears the silent cries, thank You that when others misjudge or overlook me, You never do. Teach me to rest not in human understanding, but in Your perfect knowledge of my heart. Fill me with peace as I pour out my soul to You, trusting that You are near to the brokenhearted.

Friday: Trusting the Timing of God

Scripture Reading:

“They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her.

And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, ‘I have asked for him from the Lord.’” – 1 Samuel 1:19–20

Devotional:

The Scripture says, “The Lord remembered her.” It does not mean He had forgotten Hannah, but rather that He chose to act in His perfect time. After years of longing, after countless tears and prayers, Hannah conceived and gave birth to Samuel, whose name would forever testify that he was “asked of God.”

God’s timing is often different from our own. We long for immediate answers, but God often allows waiting to refine our faith and deepen our dependence on Him. When the answer comes, it is sweeter for the struggle, more precious for the patience it required.

If you are in a season of waiting, do not lose heart. Trust that God has not forgotten you. He sees every prayer, every tear, every hope. In due time, He will act, and when He does, you will know that it was His faithful hand that brought it to pass.

Reflection Questions:

1. In what areas of your life are you still waiting for God to move?
2. How can remembering Hannah’s story help you persevere in your waiting?
3. What does it mean for you to trust God’s timing even when you do not see immediate results?

Prayer:

Faithful God, help me trust that You are never late, even when my heart feels tired of waiting. Strengthen my faith in the waiting, and help me cling to the truth that You remember me. May my hope be rooted in Your goodness and my heart find peace in Your promises.

Saturday: The Beauty of Surrendered Blessings

Scripture Reading:

“And she said, ‘Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me

my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord.’ And he worshiped the Lord there.” – 1 Samuel 1:26–28 ESV

Devotional:

After receiving the very blessing she had longed for, Hannah fulfilled her vow and gave Samuel back to God. She did not cling to the gift, but entrusted him fully into God’s service. In doing so, Hannah teaches us that true worship is not just receiving from God, but offering everything back to Him.

It must have been an incredibly painful and beautiful act of surrender. Yet Hannah trusted that the God who gave Samuel to her could care for him better than she ever could. Her heart was not centered on holding tight to blessings, but on honoring the Giver.

In your own life, God may be calling you to offer something precious back to Him. It may feel costly, but remember: whatever we release into His hands becomes part of His greater story. Nothing surrendered to God is ever wasted.

Reflection Questions:

1. Is there something God is asking you to release back to Him today?
2. How does Hannah’s story encourage you to trust God with your most precious gifts?
3. What would it look like to worship through surrender in your current season?

Prayer:

Gracious Giver of every good gift, thank You for Your faithfulness and kindness. Teach me to hold my blessings with open hands, ready to offer back to You whatever You entrust to me. Give me the courage to surrender, the faith to trust, and the joy to worship You in all things.