

Welcome to 2021

- **SUNDAY SERVICE**

English service except for last Sunday of the month (Indonesian service)

- **HOLY COMMUNION**

Every 1st & 3rd Sunday (extra at 5th Sunday)

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

- **Kids class:** every Sunday
- **Teens class:** Bible Study every last Sunday of the month

- **SYNERGY YOUTH:** start 9 Jan 2021

Saturday; **NEW** time slot: 4pm start

- **PRAYER MEETING:** Tuesday & Saturday

- **CELL GROUP** (family; ladies)
to be announced





Failure is something that everyone want to avoid for. People always choose to be success rather than encountering with any failure. But the Bible told us how believers may experience the love of God, even in the midst of their failure. Failure could happen for any reason, but God is God and God is love, and He is always able to let His love shining bright in any situation. As we are continuing with the book of **1 Samuel**, we are going to learn how Hannah was able to experience the love of God in the midst of her failure.

YEAR AFTER YEAR

COME TO WORSHIP

*This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. **1Samuel 1:3***

GET HURT!

*And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the Lord had closed her womb. So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the Lord, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat. **1Samuel 1:6-7***



Hannah (Heb. Grace) was not an outsider of God's people. Instead, she was a devoted woman from a devoted family! Faithfully, Hannah and her family always come to the house of the Lord to worship. But here we can learn that worshipping God does not mean that everything in our life will run smoothly. We must let God be God who knows what the best for His people. God wants to work something in His people. Hannah experienced **failure**, and maybe we can say **the biggest failure** as a woman, because her womb closed! But still Hannah came to the house of God year by year. At the day of Old Testament, the closed womb was a big problem, people might call it as a curse. But at the day of New Testament, it is not a sin to have no baby physically.

When Hannah keep coming to **the house of the Lord**, something very painful also happened at the same time since **Peninnah** (Heb. Jewel) liked to make her miserable! Even at the time when they came to the house of the Lord to be thankful and be happy for the goodness of God, that miserable things always happened. Peninnah is like someone, or something, around us who will discourage, even destruct us, because of any failure that we may have in our life.

That conditions strongly remind us about what will happen at the end times. Not all people who come to the house of the Lord is really have a desire to worship God! Some come to the church to pray and worship, and some want to come just to make a problem! But still the church must open its doors for everyone. Everyone welcomed! Maybe we like to say just like

the good servants: Do you want us then to go and gather them (the tares) up?’ But the owner of the field said: “No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. **Let both grow together until the harvest**, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, ‘First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ” Mat.13:28-30

Removing Penninah too soon is not a good idea at all, because it will also uproot the wheat (Hannah). Keep coming to the house of God even there is someone who likes to always hurt you, because the wheat will grow better when the tares are there! And indeed, it is the way to experience God’s love through our failures!

GOD IS LOVE AND HE NEVER STOP WORKING

*And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he would give a **double portion**, for he loved Hannah, although the Lord had closed her womb. **1Samuel 1:4-5***

*Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than **10 sons**?" **1Samuel 1:8***



God is love and He never stop working to show and give His love. Whenever problems come and surrounding us, truly the love of God is also there, and we must try to focus on His love rather than being overwhelmed with the problems that keep roaring.

God was definitely working through Elkanah to show her **the unconditional love**. But at the same time, Peninnah also keep hurting Hannah. Let's try to keep focus on God's love rather than any distractions. Let's say to Penninah: "No matter whatever you are trying to make me miserable, God loves me and I will pray so that you can feel His love too."

Let us not look into the boisterous wind, instead let us keep looking into the hand of Jesus! *Mat.14:28-31*

The wind of the end times will be more boisterous than ever before, but rest assured that God will always be with us, Immanuel, and He is always ready to help us. The power of the Holy Spirit will definitely support and encourage us at all the times. He is our Comforter (Greek. **Parakletos**) *Jn.14:26!*

THE TURNING POINT ARISE & PRAY



⁹ So Hannah **arose** after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the Lord. ¹⁰ And she was in bitterness of soul, and **prayed** to the Lord and wept in anguish.



The prayer may be lifted up spontaneously in a time of success. But to lift up a prayer in the bitterness must be very difficult, but truly that is **the turning point** to experience the amazing love of God through our failures. Failures may bring you down, but God want **to raise you up**, and prayer is **the winning key**! Believers may pray alone in their prayer room, or join a prayer meeting to pray together. Without prayer, we get nothing *Jam.4:2*. But when we pray we get something. Hannah was keep praying **continuously** so that Eli paid his attention on her prayer. **Let's pray!** The turning point is actually in our hand, when we decide to pray.

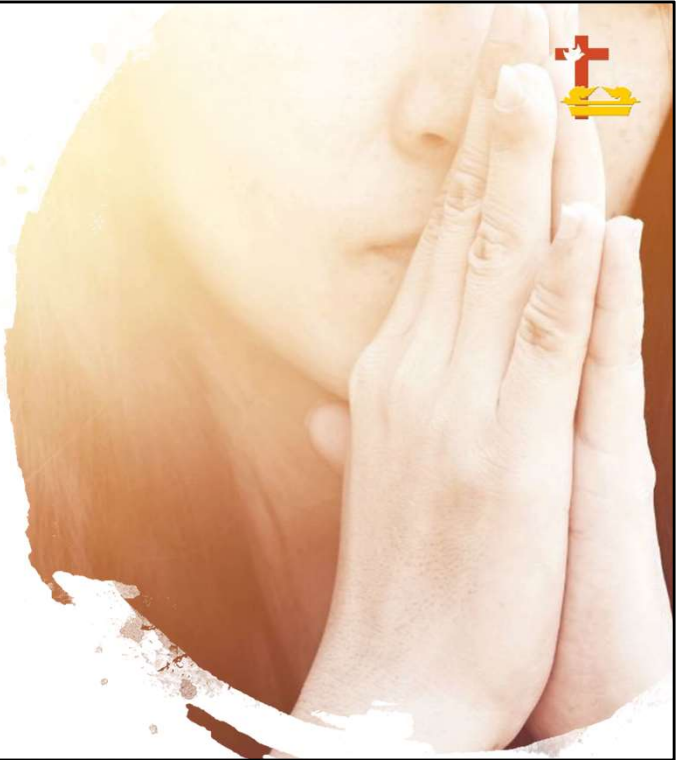
*¹² And it happened, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli watched her mouth. ¹³ Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. **1Samuel 1:12-13***

Note: Apostle Paul wrote: And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit *Eph.5:18*.

HANNAH'S VOW

¹¹ Then she **made a vow** and said, "O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then **I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life,** and no razor shall come upon his head."

²⁶ And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the Lord. ²⁷ For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. ²⁸ Therefore I also have lent him to the Lord; **as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord.**" So they worshiped the Lord there.



What is **vow**? Vow is not just only a promise. Vow is a strong and total promise from human to God to give something wholly to God. In Hannah's case, she promised to give the baby to the Lord all the days of his life. And apparently Elkanah also agreed with that vow so that he did not make any amendment for that vow. So, both Hannah and Elkanah agreed to do that, for the glory of God.

In the day of New Testament, we no longer heard any vow was made except once in the book of Acts when Paul paid for the vow that he had made earlier *Ac.18:18*, and also some other people who vowed a vow *Ac.21:23*.

So, what is the relation between Hannah's vow and our life now? We can simply say that vow is the progress of someone prayer, from self-focused prayer to God-focused prayer, from "for me" prayer to "for You" prayer.



TRANSFORMATION PRAYER

⁴¹ And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless **not My will, but Yours, be done.**"

⁴³ Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.
Luke 22:41-43

Maybe we can say that this is the highest level of prayer that we can learn from the Bible. **THE TRUE PRAYER** is not about trying to insist with our petition to God so that He may do something according to our plan and our will, instead a true prayer is a **transformation prayer** indeed!

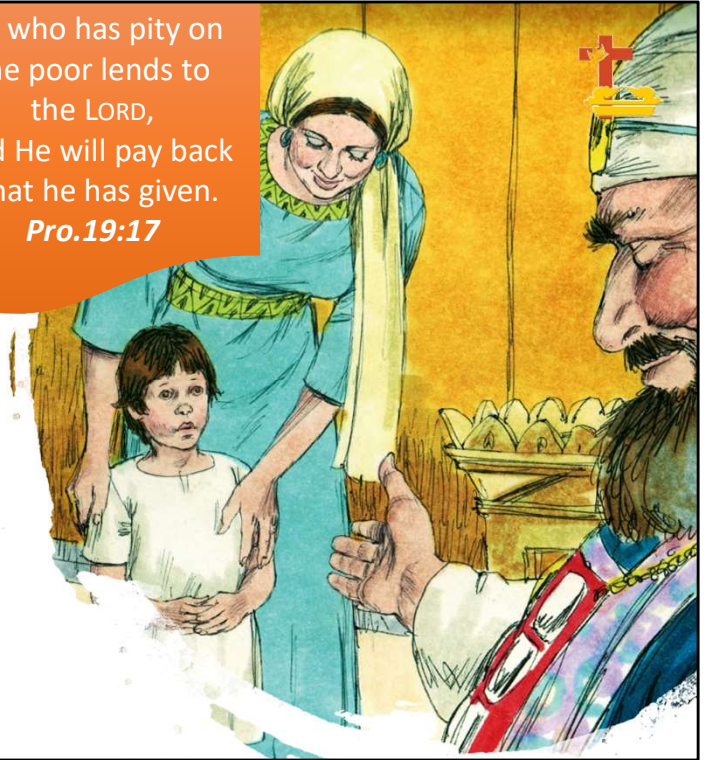
¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If that *is the case*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver *us* from your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up." **Dan.3:16-18**

THE BLESSINGS

¹⁹ Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring *it* to him **year by year** when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰ And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "The LORD give you descendants from this woman for **the loan that was given to the LORD.**" Then they would go to their own home. **1Samuel 2:19-20**

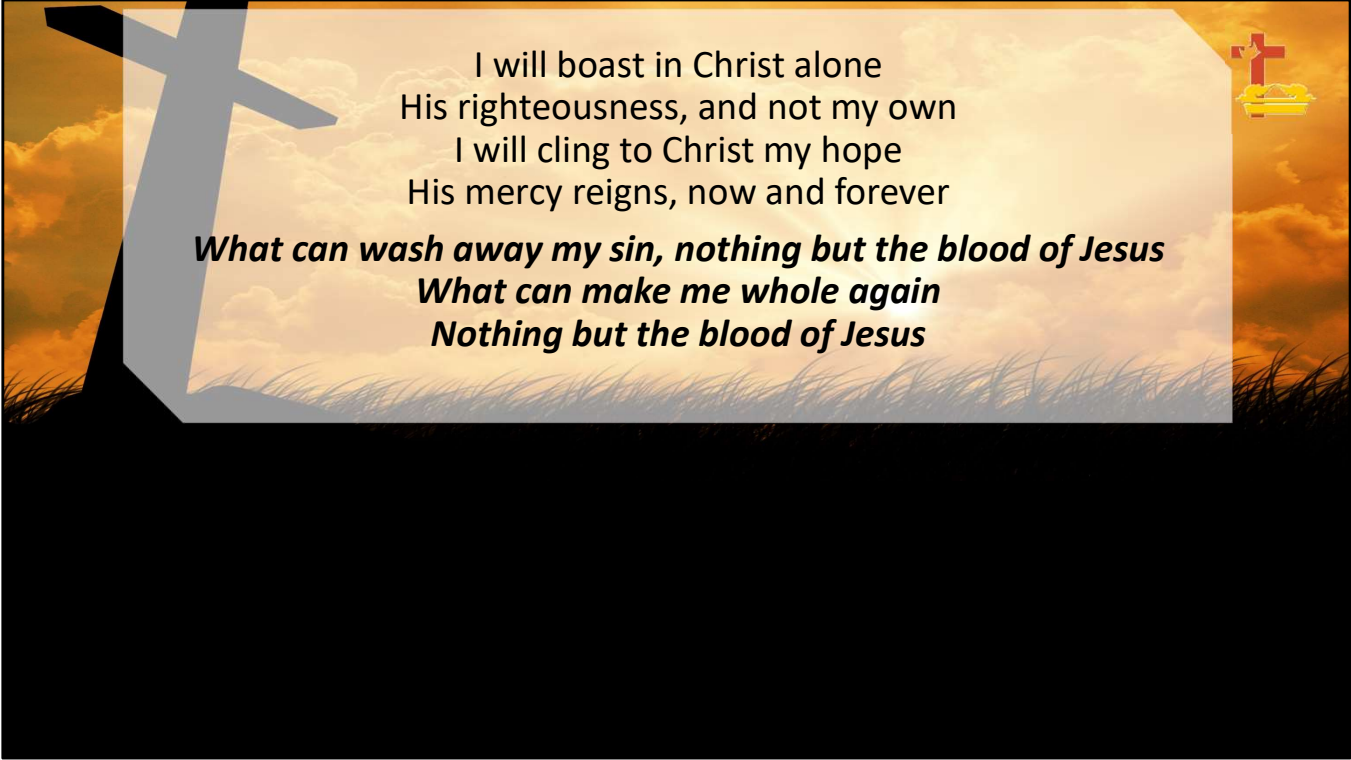
He who has pity on
the poor lends to
the LORD,
And He will pay back
what he has given.

Pro.19:17



²¹ And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

²¹ Dan TUHAN mengindahkan Hana, sehingga dia mengandung dan melahirkan tiga anak laki-laki dan dua anak perempuan lagi. Sementara itu makin besarliah Samuel yang muda itu di hadapan TUHAN.



I will boast in Christ alone
His righteousness, and not my own
I will cling to Christ my hope
His mercy reigns, now and forever

***What can wash away my sin, nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again
Nothing but the blood of Jesus***



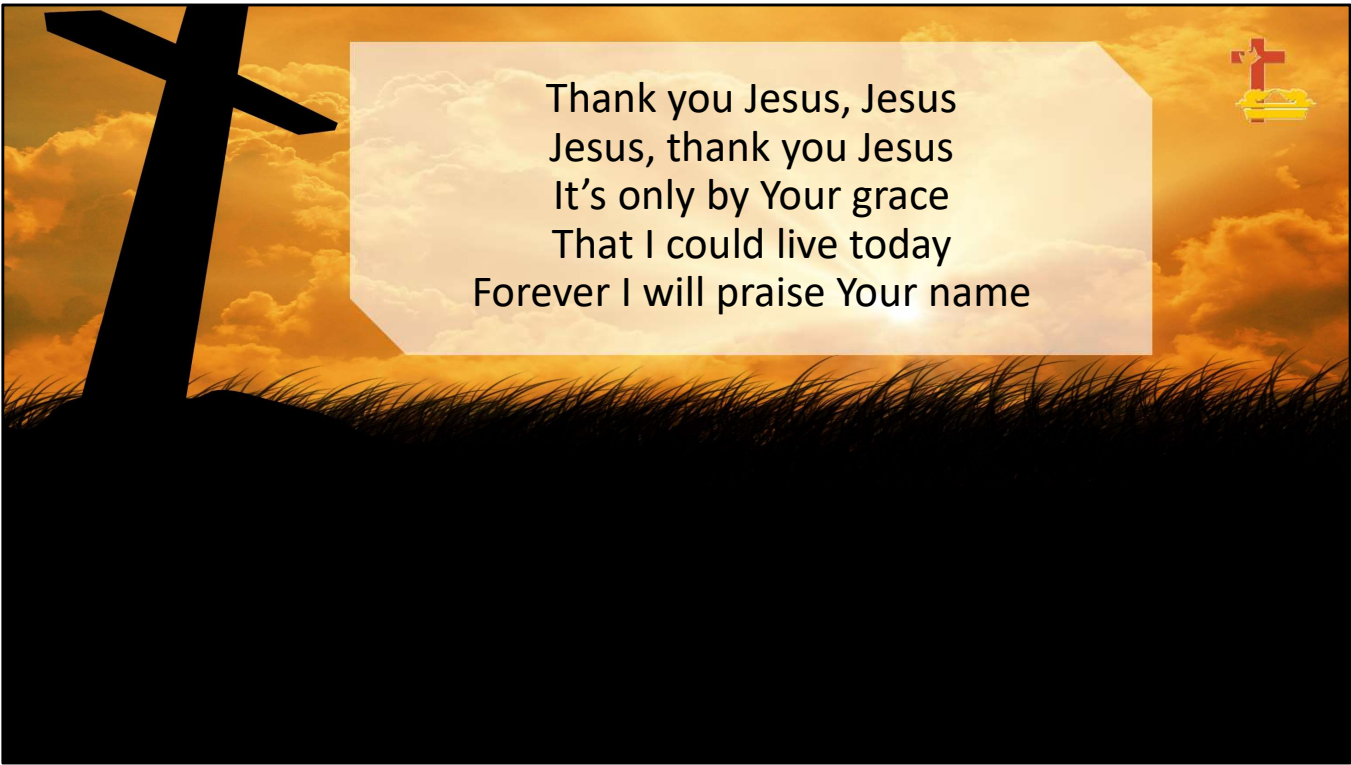


1CORINTHIANS 11:23-25

... The Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said,

“Take, eat; This is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, **“This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”**



Thank you Jesus, Jesus
Jesus, thank you Jesus
It's only by Your grace
That I could live today
Forever I will praise Your name





GOD BLESS YOU!
HAVE A BLESSED WEEK WITH JESUS

See You Next Sunday!

Feel free to contact us!

Want to know more about Jesus

Submit your prayer request

Need pastoral care

Want to understand Bible more

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