

The Example of Hannah's Prayer Based on 1 Samuel 1:10-20 for Christian Women's Faith and Hope

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Abstract. This article examines the example of Hannah's prayer based on the biblical text in 1 Samuel 1:10-20 and how her faith and hope can be an inspiration for Christian women in facing life's challenges. The study shows that through sincere prayer, faith, and hope, Hannah gained strength in overcoming severe personal struggles. Using a theological analysis approach, this article reveals the relevance of prayer as a form of devotion and trust in God, and identifies important principles drawn from Hannah's life to be applied in the lives of Christian women today.

Keywords: Hannah's prayer, faith, hope, Christian women, theology of prayer.

1. INTRODUCTION

Prayer is a fundamental element of Christian life and an important medium for drawing closer to God (Henderson, 2021). More than the submission of requests, prayer is an expression of faith in God who is sovereign over human life (Chung, 2020). In the context of Christian women, prayer has a deeper dimension, encompassing spiritual and emotional aspects that relate to the struggles of daily life. The story of Hannah in 1 Samuel 1:10-20 is a powerful example of how prayer can be a means of strengthening faith and hope amidst the pressures of life (White, 2019).

In the modern era, Christian women face a variety of complex challenges, ranging from economic pressures, social expectations, to personal issues such as family and work (Smith, 2018). These struggles often require solutions that are not only practical but also rely on the power of faith. Pollard (2021) reveals that to deal with these pressures, Christian women need to have a solid foundation of faith and hope. Prayer is one way to strengthen both of these.

The story of Hannah in the Bible illustrates that sincere prayer, based on deep faith and hope in God, can provide tremendous strength in the face of difficult situations. Hannah not only teaches about perseverance in prayer, but also shows how true faith and hope can transform struggles into real hope (Taylor & Carlson, 2022).

This article aims to examine the role of Hannah's prayer as a model in building strong faith and hope for Christian women in the midst of life's challenges. By analysing the context of Hannah's prayer and its relevance in modern life, this study offers a new perspective on

how prayer can be a major strength in facing the pressures of life, especially for Christian women.

2. METHODS

This article uses a literature study method and theological narrative analysis, focusing on the interpretation of Hannah's story in 1 Samuel 1:10-20. Some secondary sources such as related articles, books, and journals on the theology of prayer, faith, and hope are reviewed to strengthen the analysis.

3. RESULTS

A. The Meaning of Prayer in the Perspective of Christian Theology

Prayer in Christian theology has a broad dimension, more than just a tool to convey requests to God. Prayer is the primary means of deepening man's spiritual relationship with God. Paul Tillich (2019) emphasises that prayer has a deep existential dimension. He describes prayer as a means that enables humans, as finite beings, to connect with the Infinite. In this view, prayer is not only functional but also transformative, making the divine presence tangible in everyday life experiences.

In addition, Dietrich Bonhoeffer (2020) refers to prayer as 'talking with God' done in sincerity. For him, prayer is a form of human recognition of God's sovereign power. Prayer is a manifestation of deep faith, where every word spoken reflects human humility before the Creator. Sincerity in prayer not only shows man's desire to get closer to God but also becomes a means of expressing gratitude, confessing sins, and submitting requests.

Barth, through his theory of divine communication, underlined that prayer is a dialogue that enables man to hear and speak to God. He views prayer as a process of adjusting human will to God's will. In prayer, man does not merely speak but also listens, receives God's guidance, and learns to submit to His plan. As such, prayer reflects a dynamic relationship between man and God, where both engage in constructive conversation.

The story of Hannah in 1 Samuel 1:10-20 is a concrete example of these theological principles. Hannah not only used prayer as a means to convey her requests to God, but also as a form of uniting her will with God's will. In her deep struggle, Hannah showed great sincerity, pouring out her heart to God with full confidence in His power.

This illustrates the essence of true Christian prayer, which is the alignment of the human mind, will, and faith with God's plan.

Furthermore, Hana's prayer teaches that prayer is not only a place for humans to seek answers to life's problems, but also a process of spiritual transformation. In submitting all her requests to God, Hana shows that prayer is a means for humans to experience strengthening faith and hope. This is in line with Barth's view that prayer not only changes external circumstances but, most importantly, changes the human heart to be in harmony with God's will.

Through this theological approach, it can be concluded that Christian prayer involves a deep relational dimension between man and God. Prayer is not only individual, but also builds a deep relationship with God as the centre of human life. In this context, the story of Hannah provides a clear example of how prayer can be a means of spiritual strengthening, both in facing life's struggles and in deepening the relationship with God.

B. Hannah's Faith in Personal Struggles

Hannah's story is a reflection of unwavering faith in the midst of difficult situations. According to Alister McGrath (2021), faith is not just a cognitive belief but also an existential commitment to hope and rely on God in all circumstances. Hannah exemplifies a resilient commitment to faith, even in the midst of scorn and social pressure (Mulholland, 2020). Christian feminism also sees Hannah's resilience as a symbol of women's strength and courage in dealing with patriarchy that often limits them (Garrison, 2022). Hana dares to express her needs directly to God, signifying that true faith is not only passive but also active in facing God with sincerity.

C. Firm Hope as the Basis of Faith

In Christian theology, hope is one of the three theological virtues along with faith and love (1 Corinthians 13:13). Thomas Aquinas defined hope as the impulse to believe that God's good will be realised for those who believe (Sayers, 2020). Hope serves as a reinforcement that enables believers, like Hannah, to persevere in difficult circumstances. In contrast to optimism, Christian hope bases its expectations on God's power and promises, not just on external conditions (Ward, 2021). Hannah believed that God had a greater plan than what she could comprehend at the time, which reflects the essence of Christian theological hope that trusts completely in the divine will.

The true Christian woman has a faith that is firmly rooted in her identity as God's creation, made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27). As God's creation, women have the same value, dignity and purpose as men, and serve as equal partners in

God's plan (Genesis 2:18). In her journey of faith, a true Christian woman bases her life on the Word of God, as stated in Psalm 119:105, making it the guideline for every aspect of her life. The example of Mary, the mother of Jesus, is an important example of how true faith leads one to submit to the will of God, as when Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word' (Luke 1:38).

True Christian women demonstrate obedience and submission to God in their daily lives. This is reflected in their actions in the family, church, and society (Ephesians 5:22-24). In the family, they display love, gentleness, and wisdom, as described in Proverbs 31:10-31, while carrying out their responsibilities with integrity. In addition, they display courage in the face of challenges, as shown by Esther who was willing to risk her life to save her people (Esther 4:16). Perseverance is also an important characteristic of a Christian woman's faith, as exemplified by Hannah who continued to pray with confidence until God answered her prayer (1 Samuel 1:10-11).

Active participation in ministry is also a clear evidence of the faith of true Christian women. Women like Phoebe, a deacon in the early church, demonstrate how women can be significant servants in the body of Christ (Romans 16:1-2). They used the gifts of the Holy Spirit to build up the church and be a blessing to the congregation, as described in 1 Corinthians 12:4-7. In all these aspects, they demonstrate humility and love as a reflection of true faith, fulfilling Jesus' command to love God with all our hearts and our neighbour as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39). Thus, true Christian women not only maintain a personal relationship with God, but are also active role models in their families, congregations, and communities, and play a role in bringing the values of the Kingdom of God into every sphere of their lives.

D. The Relevance of Hannah's Example for Modern Christian Women

The story of Hannah provides lessons for Christian women today, especially in the context of facing complex and emotional challenges. According to the perspective of religious psychology proposed by Pargament (2019), prayer can serve as an effective form of coping mechanism to deal with life's pressures. Prayer that stems from faith and hope, as Hana did, not only calms but also strengthens one's resolve and mental resilience (Ellison & Lee, 2020). In the context of feminist spirituality, McFague (2020) states that prayers like Hana's are a form of women's resilience in dealing with social structures that underestimate their value and contribution.

In the modern era, the challenges Christian women face often relate to gender equality, identity search, and managing family and career roles (Blackwell, 2021).

Hannah, who remained steadfast in her prayers despite environmental pressures, serves as an inspiration that prayer can be a tool that not only calms but also empowers women to face these challenges. The study by Meier (2021) concluded that prayer, when coupled with strong hope, contributes to one's mental and spiritual health, which in turn positively impacts family and community.

4. CONCLUSION

The story of Hannah provides an example for Christian women that prayer is not just a request, but also a manifestation of sincere faith and hope. Prayer accompanied by faith and hope helps Christian women today to remain steadfast in the face of challenges. By making prayer a way of life, Christian women can find new strength in facing the roles and pressures of modern life.

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