



HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY!



Hannah: A Woman Who Honored God

Today's Message (11/12 May 2019) / 1 Samuel 1

GOD ALWAYS
BLESSSES THE
ONE WHO
HONORS
HIM—IN HIS
OWN TIME,
IN HIS OWN
WAY.

We honor all mothers today in our unique “GCF way.” Besides biological/adoptive moms, GCF also honors today all spiritual moms—those who’ve led anyone to the saving knowledge of Christ, or disciplined anyone to spiritual growth. This message is for these lovely ladies and for those who aspire to become like them. But because the Word of God addresses every spiritual need, this message is also for all those with ears to hear: the rest of us.

Hannah represents the life story of many wonderful women of the Word: in their own perception and in the eyes of the world, life was unkind to them. But as badly as they started, when they responded rightly to the “unfairness” of life, God not only vindicated them, but memorialized their names in heaven’s history. Look at Hannah, a woman who honored God despite the struggles of her life:

1. P_____ P_____ (vv. 1-10)

- It’s so common for the women whom God would greatly use, it almost looks like a prerequisite: extremely painful trials. Look at Hannah’s situation:
 - a. A polygamous husband: Elkanah
 - b. A physical hindrance: infertility
 - c. A persistent hater: Peninnah, the other wife, who continuously provoked her.
- The end result was a deeply distressed, or as often heard today, a severely depressed woman.

2. R_____ R_____ (vv. 10-28)

- a. **She prayed to the Lord (v. 10, 12-13).**
- b. **She offered willingly to the Lord (v. 11).**

- God honored her vow because it showed her

Regular English Services (Sun, 8 & 10:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Call To Worship
Worship Through Praise
Baptism (*Morning services*)
Worship Through Fellowship
Appreciation of Mothers
Pastoral Prayer
Scripture Reading
Anthem (*Afternoon services*)
Worship in the Word
 Pastor Larry Pabiona
Worship Through Giving
Response Song
Benediction

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unselfishness and the worshipful attitude of her heart: "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and...will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life."

c. She respected the Lord (v. 14-18a, 20).

- At the temple, she showed respect for the Lord by respecting God's servant (unworthy as he was).
- When her baby came, she showed respect for the Lord by acknowledging the hand of the Lord—Samuel means "heard by God."

d. She trusted the Lord (v. 18b).

- Her faith shone through in her demeanor. She's a great example of the saying "what you are speaks so loudly there's no need for words."

e. She stayed faithful to the Lord.

- She committed to honor her vow to God, no matter what. For her, everything was mere preparation to fulfill her vow (vv. 21-26).
- She completed her vow to God: "For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition...Therefore I have lent [dedicated] him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent [dedicated] to the LORD" (vv. 27-28).

Do you think it's easy for a previously barren and depressed woman to give up her only child to God's service forever? Of course not. But she recognized that everything good comes from God, and belongs to God (*James 1:17*). That's why she could "dedicate" her only son to God.

FINAL THOUGHTS

When your heart seeks to honor God, you learn that nothing is ever lost that is given up for God. There's no loving sacrifice for Him that won't somehow enrich you, while whatever you selfishly withhold doesn't ultimately bless you.

God always blesses the one who honors Him—in His own time, in His own way. Not always how and when we want it, but as God best sees it. That's Hannah, the woman who honored God. That can be you, dear woman (or man) of God ■

MOTHERHOOD, A GIFT AND A CALLING

I can't thank God enough for my Nanay Fely Sarmiento, now in heaven, my Mommy Letty Trono, and the all the spiritual mothers who came alongside in my journey of faith.

So as I think of how it was to be 'mothered' and then to 'mother' two children of 33 and 29 years, I have seen this about motherhood—it is a gift to be treasured and a calling to be embraced.

Motherhood is a gift. That it is a gift presupposes that one acknowledges that there is a Gift-Giver. And I do. Acknowledging that my being a mother is a gift from God to be treasured saw me through the joys and travails of this bestowal from Him. It helped me to be meaningfully thankful when the children brought delight, when they were beginning to apprehend the invisible God, when they were being loving, kind, and polite, and when they were riding high in their successes. It also helped me to fully trust despite weariness and heartaches when they were difficult and stubborn, when they would not talk and choose to ignore, when they would challenge authority, and even when they were downright defiant.

That motherhood is a gift to be treasured has also been my pointer towards a greater gift—to one that I

deeply cherish. It is the gift of Life, the outcome of my faith response to Christ, not of my works and all by the grace of God. And I am blessed for precious indeed are His gifts, so I am a grateful mother for these.

Motherhood is also a calling to be embraced. The only fitting response to such a call from God is to yield to it with joy. And I did. Yet this was no guarantee my being spared from messy work, from exhaustion and pain and from giving in to occasional resentment and self-pity. But it did shape the prevailing attitude and direction of my 'mothering.'

Soon 'family' expanded. The call came to spiritually care for others, not just Mark and Joana. There were spiritual children to nurture. I was humbled, aware that I am deficient. Yet enabling came with the call. From the Spirit of God wisdom, strength, courage and confidence were available, and my heart ever rejoices for I know that with God's help, I can be a mother all over again.

For us mothers I pray this: that we will treasure His gift, embrace His call, and flourish in our mothering, so we can bless all whom He graciously entrusts to our care ■

"She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong."—Proverbs 31:17 (ESV)

Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



PASSING THE BATON OF FAITH

Parenting Series organized by Couples' Ministry
 Wednesdays of May (8, 15, 22 and 29)
 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Chapel
 Check standees at the lobby for topics.



MENTAL HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE

Connect Agents' Day for BPO industry workers
 May 18 (Sat), 8 a.m. at the Fellowship Hall
 Registration to this event is free. To register,
 text "Agents Day" to 0917 625 0244.



PERSONALITY AND OUR JOURNEY TO CHRISTLIKENESS

YA Talk 6 with Doc Yoyit Roldan & Majar Sabio
 May 18 (Sat), 2-5 p.m. at the Youth Center
 Free personality self-typing before event starts.
Everyone is invited; registration is free.
 To register, please contact 0917 625 0244.



2019 YOUTH LIVE CAMPS

ROOTED: HIGH SCHOOL CAMP
 Venue: Batangas Country Club, May 30-June 2
 Fee: P2,500, registration is 'til May 19

BEYOND: COLLEGE CAMP
 Venue: Rizal Recreation Center, June 5-8
 Fee: P2,500, registration is 'til May 19
 For more information, please visit their booth.



ROAR! LIFE IS WILD, GOD IS GOOD

Daily Vacation Bible School 2019
 May 27-June 1 (Mon. to Sat.), 8 a.m.-12 nn.
 Fee: P600.00. To register, please visit <https://vbspro.events/p/events/dvbs-roar-2019-update>.
 For more details, please text 0917 532 7663 or 0917 532 7768.

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God by the Messiah College. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

Growth Group Express

Mixed group led by Ptr. Emer Manaloto
 Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
 Rm. B124

God's Grace GG (G4)

Group for couples
 Fridays, 7:30-10:00 p.m.
 Rm. B124

Best Together in Christ

Group for couples
 Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
 Rm. B508

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form of this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag, or submit it at the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 1921.

Growth Group Leaders' Training 1

May 5, 12, 19, 26 (Sundays),
 12:00-3:00 p.m., Rm. A303

GG Leaders' Orientation on the Study Guide on Psalms

Today (Sun), 9:30-10:30 a.m.
 (B302-303) and 4:30-5:30 p.m.
 (Fellowship Hall)

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / May 2019

MAY	Projected	Rcvd., May 1-8	YEAR-TO-DATE	Projected	Rcvd., as of May 8
General Funds	7,736,444	2,401,404	General Funds	41,344,566	35,633,349
Mission Support Fund	1,317,698	106,606	Mission Support Fund	6,588,489	4,766,467
Others (Designated, etc.)	1,370,033	165,106	Others (Designated, etc.)	6,472,618	4,872,489
TOTAL	10,424,175	2,673,117	TOTAL	54,405,673	45,272,305

My mom: A channel of God's grace

BY PHILIP BLANCO

I cannot even begin to count the ways my mom has helped shape me into who I am today. But if there is one thing I am most grateful for, it is how she and my dad raised us to know and love the Lord first and foremost, and how she personally lived out her faith as an example to my siblings and me. Each step forward I have taken, every piece of wisdom I have gained, every period of growth for the last thirty or so years has stemmed from that firm foundation she helped lay down. Whether it was through bedtime stories, prayer time, or devotions, it has always been about pointing us to the knowledge of Christ.

More than just routinely dispensing lessons left and right, my mom exemplified a faith that was alive and a relationship with God that was genuine and personal. Even when we were children, it was evident to us, particularly in trying times, that her reliance on the Lord was constant, and that praying and seeking His will was of the utmost importance.

Her role as a mother was limited neither to the confines of our household nor by the fact that her sons had grown up and gotten married. We still feel her love, still hear her prayers,

and still see her faith lived out. She has always had a heart to share the Gospel with relatives and extended family, while at the same time never failing to be the support they need when difficult circumstances arise. And for as long as I can remember, she was already serving as a Sunday School teacher, a discipler, a counselor, among other things—guiding others in the way they should go.

Through my mother, the Lord has blessed me beyond anything I could ever have hoped for. In her, I see a life that has continuously poured out into

In her, I see a life that has continuously poured out into others what the Lord has poured into her.

others what the Lord has poured into her. And while a lifetime is not enough to thank her for everything she has done for me, the best way I know how would be to live my life in the same manner she lives hers—as a channel of the Lord's grace and mercy, that others, too, may come to know and experience His great redeeming love ■

PRAYER
at the Chapel

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Weeknight Prayer Gatherings
Except Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known

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Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357
Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

*Today is **11/12 May 2019**, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (*Isaiah 6:3*). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (*1 Peter 1:16*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (*Romans 3:23*).
Sin demands a penalty: "For the wages of sin is death" (*Romans 6:23*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (*Romans 5:8*). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (*1 Peter 3:18*). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (*2 Corinthians 5:18*).

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (*Romans 10:9*).

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.