

Hannah's Cry

By Jessie Fowler

The Holy Spirit is raising men and women who are rising above the norm and crying out to God with a passion and intensity that betrays the inward yearning of the Spirit. They are crying for harvest, unity and for the raising of Godly generations to carry on the work of the Lord. This cry will ascend beyond the feelings and desires of day-to-day living.

Deep will cry to Deep – “Oh God, give me children or I die!” “I will raise these children for you and not for me.”

“O God,” was Hannah’s cry. “Give me a son and I will give him back to you. Take away my shame of barrenness.”

The Holy Spirit is stirring a cry within the hearts of those who will listen. He is stirring everyone but to those who have an ear and will respond, there is a cry for sons and daughters. Not just for numbers of people but for sons and daughters to increase the kingdom of God.

There seems to be a misconception in the church today that “harvest” is just to fill our churches and see who can grow the fastest and have the most people. “Harvest” is for the Kingdom of God. It is to rescue those enslaved and to plunder the kingdom of darkness. It is to see people born again and set free from the powers of hell. It is to see lives changed and become fruitful for the Glory of God. To really grasp that the harvest fields are white would mean that we see the urgency of the need—not just to have more people to display the growth of our churches. Growth in our churches happens...it’s the by-product...not the motive.

Hannah had a cry of desperation that was born out of the pain and sorrow of longing. The humiliation was more than she could bear. Going to Shiloh the House of God each year brought sorrow, because she had nothing to bring God and rejoice about. She dreaded going but went through obedience. She was silent and withdrawn, sad and burdened. The joy, which should have been there, was absent. What could she do?

She could have become bitter, arrogant, and rebellious but her heart was soft and her focus was on the only help she could see. “O God, hear my cry.”

Today we can look at the church and be critical, bitter, and judgmental or we can go to the one who will bring about change and create the soil that nurtures the seeds sown in the hearts and lives of people. Let our hearts be moved and aroused to cry out to the Lord of the Harvest, "Send laborers into the harvest and Lord use me. I am ready and willing to do whatever, whenever, however. I want to burn out for you and be of use to you and the body of Christ so passionately that it is all I can think about. I desire to walk, talk, breathe, eat, live and die serving you and your kingdom."

Will we cry out like Hannah? Will we go until we see the kingdom of darkness replaced by the glorious Kingdom of God? Will we give all that we are and have back to God with a heart of joy? Will we be the available one that steps up and says yes, I will do what you ask me to do? Will we be first to reach out and help the hurting and wounded? Will we be the ones who will cry out and go out? And, when we get our answer will we gladly train, nurture and care about those God has entrusted to us?

A cry of Hannah will be productive because it is persistent. The Spirit of God is drawing His bride to himself and His desire is that not one be lost. The intercession for the purpose of God will be one that He will breathe life into. He will continue to sustain the cry until delivery is accomplished. Then He will provide the spiritual mothers and fathers who will nurture and equip these new lives to be rooted, grounded and growing in the Kingdom of God. The cry of Jesus was that "not one would be lost." How much then should we be working in accord with the cry of Jesus?

Hannah did not just settle for one child to give back to God. Because of her obedience to give, she continued to bear more children (1 Samuel 2:21). She didn't neglect what she gave to God but continued to care and provide for Samuel as well as her other children.

Her cry was heard. Her need was met. Her heart was the same after the son was born. A true mothering heart will continue to be passionate about her children. A mothering heart cares for them all the days of their lives. It's a passion that cannot be silenced, put down or put out.

A cry for fruitfulness must be one that is not self centered or self-serving. It must be born of a spirit that longs to fulfill the purpose of God for the world today. A cry must come that is birthed in compassion for the youngest to the

oldest. This cry has no boundaries, no limits, and no time frame. This cry will not be of a specific gender or generational origin. Self-motives are destroyed by this cry. Then unity will prevail and the focus will be on building the Kingdom of God.

“Spirit of God, birth in us the passion of the Father. Ignite our flames of responsibility and desire to be like Him. Give us children or we die!

© 2006 Jessie Fowler (all rights reserved)