



1 ...since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us... Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

- Spiritual Giants have learned to **trust** God and take steps of **faith**.

Today our Spiritual Giant is: **Hannah**

2 Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah did not. 1 Samuel 1:2 (NLT)

3 Each year Elkanah would travel to Shiloh to worship and sacrifice to the LORD at the Tabernacle... 1 Samuel 1:3 (NLT)

4 When Elkanah sacrificed, he passed helpings from the sacrificial meal around to his wife Peninnah and all her children, 5 but he always gave an especially generous helping to Hannah because he loved her so much, and because GOD had not given her children. 6 But her rival wife taunted her cruelly, rubbing it in and never letting her forget that GOD had not given her children. 7 This went on year after year. Every time she went to the sanctuary of GOD she could expect to be taunted. Hannah was reduced to tears and had no appetite. 1 Samuel 1:4-7 (MSG)

Hannah would say:

- In your pain, **pray**.

- God answer's **prayer**.

17 Is anyone crying for help? **GOD is listening, ready to rescue you.** 18 If your heart is broken, **you'll find GOD right there;** if you're kicked in the gut, he'll help you catch your breath. Psalm 34:17-18 (MSG)

From Hannah's life we see:

- We can't always **depend on comfort** from people we love.

3 ...God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. 2 Corinthians 1:3 (NLT)

8 "Why are you crying, Hannah?" Elkanah would ask. "Why aren't you eating? Why be downhearted just because you have no children? You have me—isn't that better than having ten sons?" 1 Samuel 1:8 (NLT)

- People can't fill the **void**.

1 I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry.

2 **He lifted me out of the pit of despair,** out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. 3 He has given me a new song to sing... Psalm 40:1-3 (NLT)

- Don't take your **frustrations** out on people, even if they **deserve** it.

9 Don't repay evil for evil. **Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you.** Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will bless you for it. 1 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

Final words of encouragement from Hannah:

- **Believe** that God **can**.

- **Worship** God in the **pain**.

3 Each year Elkanah would travel to Shiloh to worship and sacrifice to the LORD at the Tabernacle... 1 Samuel 1:3 (NLT)

When we're in pain:

- We either run **to** God or **away** from Him.

What we do **in our pain** determines what God brings **from** our pain.

- We either **thank** God or **blame** Him.

5 ...the LORD had closed her womb. 1 Samuel 1:5 (NIV)

- **Pray** until God **answers**.

9 Once after a sacrificial meal at Shiloh, Hannah got up and went to pray. Eli the priest was sitting at his customary place beside the entrance of the Tabernacle. 10 Hannah was in deep anguish, crying bitterly as she prayed to the LORD. 1 Samuel 1:9-10 (NLT)

- **Release** it to **God**.

11 And she made this vow: "O LORD of Heaven's Armies, if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime..." 1 Samuel 1:11 (NLT)

- **Do your part**.

19 The entire family was up early the next morning and went to the Tabernacle to worship the Lord once more. Then they returned home to Ramah, and when Elkanah slept with Hannah, the Lord remembered her petition; 20 in the process of time, a baby boy was born to her. She named him Samuel (meaning "asked of God") because, as she said, "I asked the Lord for him." 1 Samuel 1:19-20 (TLB)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Why?
- If you could spend time with Hannah, what question would you ask her that might help you in your faith race?
- Have you ever considered that you have what it takes to be a spiritual Giant? Talk about what a spiritual Giant is.
- How do you rate yourself in the area of prayer? Consistent somewhat consistent.....sporadic?
- Why does God want us to depend on Him for comfort rather than others? How do you receive comfort from God?
- How does God fill the void that's created by hurts and pain? Can you tell of a time that Only God could fill the void you were experiencing?
- How does taking our frustrations out on people hurt us?
- Do you believe that God can answer your prayers? What does it mean to worship God in your pain? Why is this important in our faith journey?
- Do you find that you pray until God answers? Why is persistence important in our faith?
- How do we release to God what we're asking for? Why is this important?
- Why is it important for us to do our part in experiencing answered prayers?

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