

First Baptist Church Smiths Falls

November 12, 2017

Musical Prelude:

Greetings: "Good Morning"

A warm welcome is extended to our guests and visitors on this, the day of the Lord. We would ask you to sign the guest book by the door as a record of your visit with us.

Call to Worship: Isaiah 40:31

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as an eagle, they shall walk and not grow weary, run and not faint.”

Vision: "To Impact hearts and lives with the gospel of Christ in the Church, in the community and beyond."

Announcements, Celebrations, Concerns & Sharing: Coffee Fellowship

Prayer of Approach:

Blessing and honour be to You our God, for You are the Creator of the world, the Lord of life and death; and the Father of those who believe. Before You, God of love, we bow in adoration and praise. We offer unto You our love as children, our reverence as creatures, and our duty as servants, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Greeting Each Other:

Hymns and Songs:

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 1:4-20

4 On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to

his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; 5 but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb. 6 Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. 7 So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. 8 Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?" 9 ¶ After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. 10 She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD, and wept bitterly. 11 She made this vow: "O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head." 12 As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. 13 Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. 14 So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." 15 But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. 16 Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." 17 Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him." 18 And she said, "Let your servant find favour in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer. 19 ¶ They rose early in the morning and worshipped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. 20 In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the

LORD.

Children's

Offering

Prayer of Illumination:

Message: "Given By God"

Introduction:

- Its hard to believe that it is getting to be that time of the year already, but the word "Christmas" is becoming more popular. Just two weeks ago Halloween decorations disappeared from the stores only to be immediately replaced by lights, glitter, and evergreen boughs. And the commercials have changed: Do you remember the old: "Give like Santa, save like Scrooge" campaigns? It seems that the ads for Christmas are everywhere - All saying: "Save now - Come on in!"
- Advertising has its own language that relies on catch words - one of which is the word "Wait," as in: "DON'T WAIT - WHY WAIT! Buy now. Don't miss out!"
- I always feel like I cannot wait for great things, like Christmas, but God is working with me to teach me the value of waiting. Waiting

is a part of life, and I believe that waiting should be part of the Christ's Church.

- Today, let's talk about God's use of waiting, and our joy in waiting for Him and let us apply this to us and to God's Church.

Step 1: The Wait is On...

- Have you heard these sayings before: a. Hurry up and wait (Army); b. (When I was younger, I heard this one A Lot) Wait until your father gets home. C. Good things come to those who wait. D. Well worth the wait. E. When it comes to Linda, my favourite saying is, "I spend half my time chasing her, and the other half waiting for her."
- American writer Henry David Thoreau once said, "It is the slowest pulsation which is the most vital. The hero will then know how to wait as well as how to make haste. All good abides with him who waits wisely."
- The Bible refers to waiting a lot. Psalm 27:14 says: "*Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.*" Psalm 33:20 says: "*We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our*

shield.” Psalm 37:7 says: *“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him....”* One of the best verses on waiting is found in Isaiah 40:31: *“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as an eagle, they shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not faint.”*

- If the Bible tells us over and over again to wait upon God, then should we not be more practised? Should we be better at waiting upon God?
- in 1 Samuel 1, Hannah found that she had to wait upon God - her wait allowed her to improve her vision, and to come to the point where she relied on God.
- Waiting is not something which we do well in our society. We are a quick moving community - one in which someone with vision is expected to initiate it quickly and unfalteringly - and to wait is to admit defeat. But waiting is not only good, but a practical and necessary tool in the Church of Jesus Christ.
- Waiting involves many things: Waiting includes being still; the root of the word involves listening; the Hebrew suggests that

waiting involves a twisting or anguishing of one's soul as one anxiously wrestles with the situation before you. Waiting therefore involves remaining in one place; tarrying; abiding. In the Hebrew there is also the idea of hope in the word wait - hope for the future, hoping for what is ahead; Psalm 37:7: *“Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him.”*

- Waiting is also a word often used to describe a time of silence, of peace, of stillness, of rest; in the Old Testament, waiting entails a sense of longing - longing such as Hannah did for a child - longing for the Lord to remedy a situation. Waiting in the Bible means to take a stand, enduring, remaining, standing firm. Waiting also involves one other thing - expectation. We are to be expecting God to do something for us, as Hannah expected God to give her a child - and she looked for the fulfilment of her belief eagerly. *“Wait for the Lord, and he shall deliver you.”* says Proverbs 20:22.
- But there is another aspect of waiting - Webster's dictionary makes it clear that part of waiting is service - such as waiting on tables in a restaurant. Hannah had to wait. Step one was Hannah waiting

upon God.

STEP 2 - THE VISION

- Hannah wanted a child. Hannah therefore had a problem - she was barren. But Hannah had a vision - she looked into the future to see herself with a gift of a child.
- How can we apply this step from the life of Hannah to our lives and to the Church today? We must have a vision as we learn to wait upon God.
- Let me ask you today - what is your vision for this Church? Where do you see it in one year? When your grandchildren are sitting in the pews with their grandchildren in a few generations, what sort of a vision do you have for them? How do you wish to be remembered?
- Allow me to share the vision that God has given to me for this Church. My vision is that this Church returns to the basics of the Bible to praise God. The vision which God has given to me includes a return to the Bible. Church is to be a gathering of good stewards of Jesus Christ who have met together with one purpose

- see the joy of fellowship which believers can experience with God. The vision includes people looking at their talents, and fitting their talents into roles in the Church in service for God. I see the vision for the next year in this Church is for us to go beyond the care of the organization and structure of this Church, and instead to care for the community, to share both a greater sense of community in the love of Jesus with those in this Church, and with those people who are beyond these walls. The vision starts with all who are here today who pledge to get closer: sharing meals together, fellowshiping together as we work side-by-side, laughing as we show Jesus to the hungry people of Smiths Falls.
- Keep in mind that 184 years ago a group of people had a vision for this community, and so they struggled to build a place of worship known as the First Baptist Church Smiths Falls. They had a vision of starting a project in which a place of worship was build to house God's people as they gathered to share God in their lives. After 184 years, would they be proud of what is here? Is their vision alive and well?

- Hannah had the vision of her giving birth to a child - and she turned that vision over to God (1 Samuel 1:11). Step one: Wait. Step 2: have a vision.

STEP 3 - PRAYER

- Let's turn to verse 11. Here Hannah prays to God to give her a child, a special child which she would give back to God. Hannah planned on honouring God by giving God her child. In her plan, she knew that God would honour her with more children, which He did (1 Samuel 2:21).
- What good was Hannah's vision, though, if she did not bring it before God in prayer? Isn't vision useless without presenting it God?
- God will take care of you. God has a plan for you. But you must take what God has for you, and offer it in prayer to Him.
- As the plan for the vision for this Church unfolds, I see the main platform being built upon prayer. We need to pray that we will be a people who communicate and encouragement and love. We need to pray that we all be steadfastness as we stand on Biblical truth,

lead by God's Spirit. Let's pray for this Church to be a close Church of fellowship: to share joy and pain, good and bad. And it all hinges on prayer, Hannah's third step in coming to God.

STEP 4 - ACTION

- Back to 1 Samuel 1: After Hannah have waited, envisioned, and prayed, she began to act. She told Eli the priest (v. 15), then she changed her attitude (v. 18), and put the vision into action (vs. 19-20).
- We can learn from Hannah. We need to be a people of action, a people of motion. But action should only come after you have waited, only after you have a vision for the future, only after you have taken that vision and given it to God in prayer. Action without these other steps is like a pin-ball stuck bouncing between two bumpers in a pin-ball machine - constantly moving, but going nowhere.
- Too many churches are doing just that - constantly moving, but going nowhere. Or churches with the other problem: we have people drawing from the I CANT well - as in: I can't lead, I can't

talk in a crowd, I can't speak up, I can't be quiet. I can't get

involved. I can't serve God.

- We are all called to be ministers, ambassadors, apostles, to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Think about this: the disciples all had different gifts, abilities and talents - and God called them all.

When God calls you to do His work remember two things (1) God has called you the way you are (2) You are not alone - God is with you. Can we dare be a people of God in action for Him in this hurting and needy world?

Conclusion:

- Edward Mote wrote these words which he put into a hymn, "My hope is built on nothing less than, Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name - On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand." Edward Mote knew that all life had to be built on Jesus Christ.
- That must be the focus of this Church. This Church must be built on nothing less than Christ's blood and righteousness. This Church will only stand by leaning on Christ's name, by standing on the

Holy Rock, the unsinkable Rock of Jesus.

- And it starts with us learning to wait upon God, like Hannah, to hear His plan for us. Then we must have a clear vision in mind. Next we must take that vision and give it in prayer to God, asking Him to solidify His plan. And finally we are to be a people of action for Christ.
- What does God have for your life? What does God have for this community? For this Church? Hannah's life shows that all starts with taking the time to wait.

Prayer:

Hymn:

Benediction:

And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace by your faith in him, until, by the power of the Holy Spirit, you overflow with hope. Romans 15.13 (NEB).

Coffee Fellowship: