

February 23, 2014

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¹ There was a man named Elkanah who lived in Ramah in the region of Zuph in the hill country of Ephraim. He was the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, of Ephraim. ² Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah did not.³ Each year Elkanah would travel to Shiloh to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of Heaven's Armies at the Tabernacle. The priests of the LORD at that time were the two sons of Eli-Hophni and Phinehas. ⁴On the days Elkanah presented his sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to Peninnah and each of her children. ⁵ And though he loved Hannah, he would give her only one choice portion because the LORD had given her no children. ⁶ So Peninnah would taunt Hannah and make fun of her because the LORD had kept her from having children.⁷ Year after year it was the same—Peninnah would taunt Hannah as they went to the Tabernacle. Each time, Hannah would be reduced to tears and would not even eat.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 1:1-8 (NLT)

Why, Why, Why

- When those around you just don't ______
- When all that you have just isn't ______

Learn _____

¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

Philippians 4:11 (NIV)

A Blessing: The _____ of Your _____

¹⁷ "In that case," Eli said, "go in peace! May the God of Israel grant the request you have asked of him." ¹⁸ "Oh, thank you, sir!" she exclaimed. Then she went back and began to eat again, and she was no longer sad. ¹⁹ The entire family got up early the next morning and went to worship the LORD once more. Then they returned home to Ramah. When Elkanah slept with Hannah, the LORD remembered her plea, ²⁰ and in due time she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I asked the LORD for him." 1 Samuel 1:17-20 (NLT)

⁴ Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4 (NRSV)

My Next Step Today Is To...

- Believe and receive Jesus as my Savior and Lord.
- Trust God in the midst of the "whys" of my life.
- Ask God to help me learn contentment while storming heaven for the desires of my heart.
- Meditate on and/or memorize Philippians 4:11