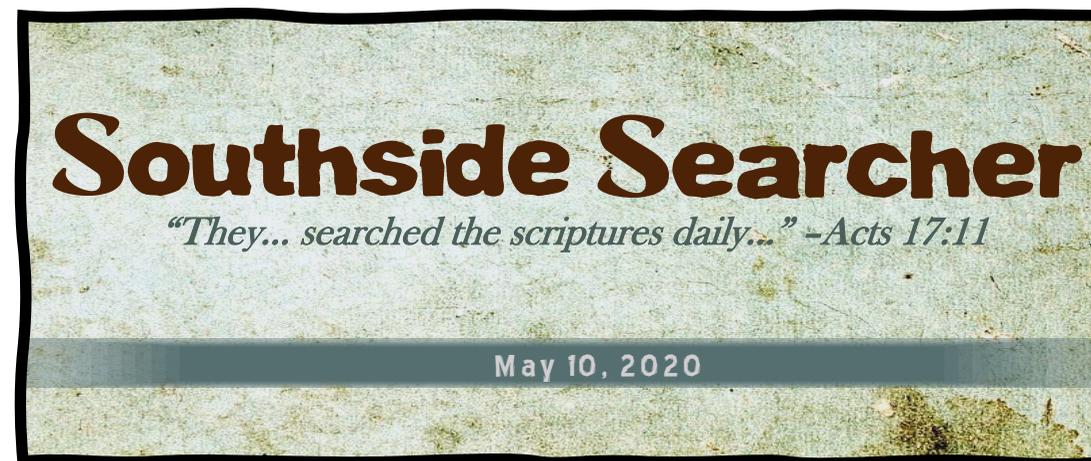


<p>DUTY LIST...</p> <p>SUNDAY MORNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Announcements.....Michael Pickford ➤ Scripture Reading...Jeff Isbell Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-5 ➤ Song Leader.....Kenny Todd ➤ Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson ➤ Lord's Table: Lead.....Michael Pickford Serve.....Eli Todd Serve..... ➤ Closing Prayer.....Lynn Buttrey <p>SUNDAY EVENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Scripture Reading... Reading: ➤ Song Leader..... ➤ Lord's Supper..... <p>WEDNESDAY EVENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Song Leader..... ➤ Invitation..... 	<p style="text-align: center;">God's Plan of Salvation</p> <p>There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Hear the Gospel:</u> Romans 10:17 ➤ <u>Believe:</u> Mark 16:16; John 8:24 ➤ <u>Repent of Sin:</u> Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30 ➤ <u>Confess Faith:</u> Romans 10:9, 10 ➤ <u>Be Baptized:</u> Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21 ➤ <u>Remain Faithful:</u> Rev. 2:10 <p style="text-align: center;">Obey Today!</p>
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Hannah

HANNAH WAS THE WIFE OF Elkanah and mother of the great prophet and judge Samuel (1 Samuel Chapters 1 & 2). We can learn some essential spiritual lessons from Hannah...

HER PROBLEM WAS PAINFUL.

Hannah's problem was that she was barren, and this caused her much pain and distress. Among the Jews, women who were barren were considered cursed by God, and they were often castigated by others. Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, was also barren most of her life. When she conceived, she said, *"Thus the Lord has dealt with me, to take away my reproach among people"* (Luke 1:25).

Elkanah's other wife, Peninnah, certainly "Reproached" Hannah. We are told that she *"Provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the Lord had closed her womb"* (1 Samuel 1:6).

Today, we are certainly not without our own painful difficulties, including sometimes being reproached by those in the world because of our faith (John 15:18-20; 1 Peter 4:4).

HER PRAYER WAS PASSIONATE.

Hannah prayed with great passion. She *"Prayed to the Lord and wept in*

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Southside Searcher, Volume 16, Number 11

anguish” (1 Samuel 1:10). I remember Hezekiah once “*Wept bitterly*” in prayer (2 Kings 20:3), and his prayer was heard, as was Hannah’s. Paul taught that Christians should “*Continue earnestly in prayer*” (Colossians 4:2).

Sometimes our prayers (If we say them) become cold and ritualistic. A quick prayer before a meal or a sleepy prayer before bed. We are surrounded by wickedness in this world. Preachers, elders, children, parents, politicians, sinners...all these need our earnest and passionate prayers (1 Timothy 2:1-4)!

We need our prayers! We must pray for strength, and courage, and boldness in a world filled with moral cowards. Like Hannah, we must pray passionately and persistently (1 Samuel 1:12). The Lord taught “*That men always ought to pray and not lose heart*” (Luke 18:1).

HER PROMISE WAS GOOD.

In her prayers Hannah vowed to God that if He blessed her with a child, she would give him to the Lord. “*Then she made a vow and said, ‘O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your maidservant and remember me, and not forget your maidservant, but will give your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head’*” (1 Samuel 1:11).

This was quite a promise and Hannah made good on it. The Lord granted her request and gave her a son (1 Samuel 1:27). After the child was weaned, she gave him to the priest at Shiloh where he entered the service of the Lord.

We must also be honest, dependable people of our word in every aspect of our life whether it be as husbands, wives, parents, children, employers, or employees. As Christians, people need to know that our word is as good as gold. Our lives should be living Bibles that both recommend and encourage a life devoted to serving our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

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A Broken Heart

EVERYONE HAS EXPERIENCED A broken heart. Some hearts are broken by the one they love. This type of heartbreak has led to such tragedies as murder and suicide. And yet it has also produced some of the loveliest poetry and songs of beauty known to man. Some suffer from heartbreak due to loss of a loved one to death. While these are valid concerns, there is a much more significant type of heartbreak, one that is commended and even expected.

I’m speaking of a broken heart like the one in the parable who cried, “*God, be merciful to me a sinner*” (Luke 18:13). Our sin should break our hearts. We should be relentlessly troubled when we sin against God. In fact, the Lord placed a blessing upon the one who mourns (Matthew 5:4); He promised they would be find comfort. The mournful are those who realize their poverty of spirit (Matthew 5:1). They know they have sinned against a holy God, perhaps they have contemplated the consequences, and the guilt is crushing their spirit and breaking their heart. Good! Now they have what is essential for one to take the necessary actions in coming to God and finding forgiveness and acceptance. “*The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart and saves such as are crushed in spirit*” (Psalm 34:18). Jesus promised rest for the souls of those who come to Him (Matthew 11:28-30).

But we must come to Him on His terms if we would have salvation and comfort. Those in Acts chapter two had their hearts cut (Broken?) by the Gospel of Christ. They asked a question that conveyed a desire to be healed from their sin. They were told they must “*repent... and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins*” (Acts 2:37-38). When one’s heart is broken, he is sometimes told that time heals all wounds. But only obedience to the Gospel will heal the wounds of a heart broken by the crushing blow of sin.

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