Happy Mothers’ Day! Mom’s, we honor you today and thank God for you.

This morning, we continue our series “No Other Name.” Last week, we learned that calling on or operating in the name of the Lord was not a magic formula. But to pray in the name of Jesus is a declaration of disposition--calling on the inherent qualities of our Savior. With the call, we declare that His will, His way is the desire of our hearts.

In [1 Samuel 1](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Samuel1%3A10-27&version=NKJV), we meet Hannah. She was one of two wives of Elkanah. The other wife is Penninah. She had children and Hannah did not ([1 Samuel 1:4-10](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Samuel1%3A4-10&version=NKJV)). In her despair, Hannah was honest before her Lord. In verse 11, she calls upon the “Lord of Hosts.” She is the first person to use this name, a reference to God used 235 times throughout Scripture. It means, literally, “God of the Armies of Heaven.” With this direct address, Hannah acknowledges God’s power and sovereignty. Christian, this name above all names is whom we represent. It is to whom we cry out in prayer—for whom we live our lives ([Colossians 3:17](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians3%3A17&version=NKJV)). Remember in prayer to whom you are talking. Often, I believe we view prayer as a means to verbally journal our thoughts or to give ourselves a pep talk, instead of realizing that we have an audience with the God of Angel Armies! When we belong to Him through faith, we can rely upon His power, His authority; that when we encounter obstacles in our lives we should be driven to the name that is above all other names—the name we call on for salvation.

Hannah was helpless and distressed. Maybe, many of us feel that way this morning, but, family, listen. Darkness only becomes an obstacle when we fail to see who God is. Remember to whom you have access. Remember to whom you belong! Richard Foster\* said, “Real prayer comes not from gritting our teeth but from falling in love.” Hannah prayed from her heart ([1 Samuel 1:13](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Samuel1%3A13&version=NKJV)). Prayer that calls upon the name of the Lord exposed her and exposes us to God’s character. As Hannah did, we are to live our lives from a place of acknowledging the power of God. We must remember that Christ is for us and that our names apart from him

\*Richard James Foster is a 20th c. Christian theologian and author in the Quaker tradition.

are bankrupt and that God’s reputation is enhanced by His answers to prayer, whatever that answer may be ([Psalm 115:1](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm115%3A1&version=NKJV)).

Calling upon the name of the Lord changes things. Look with me at [verse 18](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Samuel1%3A18&version=NKJV): “And she said, ‘Let your maidservant find favor in your sight.’ So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.” The name “Hannah” literally translates as “favor” or “grace.” This grace-filled servant, whose prayer had *not yet been answered*, “was no longer sad.” Even without a response from her God, Hannah’s face was no longer downcast. She went on her way and finally ate something; she was renewed. Clearly, calling upon the name of the Lord from the heart in honest communication changes things—sometimes changing your circumstances, sometimes changing *you*.

Listen, family, calling upon the name of the Lord is not wishful thinking aimed in God’s direction. We seek to encounter the character of God--the Lord of Hosts, the God of Angel Armies. All-powerful and sovereign, this, our Lord, is also the same God who cares about what you’re going through ([1 Samuel 12:22](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Samuel12%3A22&version=NKJV)). We have assurance in Samuel’s prayer and in King David’s song, [Psalm 34:15.](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm34%3A15&version=NKJV) Have you ever thought about God’s gaze upon you? We know he watches over us, but have you considered that He really sees you? In Genesis 16 appears a name for God that is only used once in the entire Bible. It is the name El Roi. Hagar used this name when she encountered the angel of the Lord. It means “the God who sees me.” When we feel invisible, forgotten, alone, vulnerable, we can be confident, as Hagar confirmed, that God sees.

The Lord of Hosts is interested in your circumstances; He witnesses our struggles. He comes alongside us. He saw the Samaritan women, the leper, the blind, even the tax collector. In John [19:25-27](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John19%3A25-27&version=NKJV), He saw His mother’s need, even from the cross. He sees us ([Matthew 6:26](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew6%3A26&version=NKJV)). That truth should bring great comfort if we believe in Jesus Christ. The name of the Lord is a strong tower. Hannah’s son Samuel, dedicated as she promised to the service of the Lord, was used mightily by the Lord of Hosts—a prophet, a judge, an anointer of kings and, later, mentioned in Hebrews in the triumphs of faith. All of this service, all of these blessings, occurred because God had a plan, and his mama called on the name of the Lord, trusting in His providence and His answer to her prayers. So, moms, thank you for praying for us!