

## “FRUITFULNESS BREAKTHROUGH”

1 Sam 1:1-20

*The great need and the great battle of life/ministry is a fruitfulness breakthrough. We see God help Hannah.*

### I. GOD’S PURPOSE OF FRUITFULNESS

#### A. Our purpose involves fruitfulness

##### 1. Hannah: A wife – her natural purpose involves fruitfulness/children

a. *Gen 1:28* And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply,

b. *John 15:16* You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

##### 2. Pastoring: The essence of ministry is fruitfulness

a. Pastor = shepherd: You can’t be a shepherd if you have no sheep!

#### B. Fruitfulness is a qualification for ministry *Leviticus 21:20 ... or hath his stones broken: (damaged testicles)*

##### 1. Those w/out ability to reproduce don’t qualify for priesthood

a. Num 17: Leadership decided by staff that budded/bore fruit! What to look for in a man!

##### 2. Why would fruitfulness be so important?

a. **B/C if we are unfruitful before we go out – we will be unfruitful when we go out**

1. *Luke 16:10* He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

### II. THE REALITY OF BARRENNESS

#### A. Our scrip shows us the reality of barrenness Some people struggle to bear fruit: *V5 her womb was closed...*

##### 1. This is because the Devil hates fruitfulness *Souls: Eternal desitines* b. *Lives: Wants to keep people bound*

##### 2. The enemy uses barrenness to assault us

a. *1 Samuel 1:6* And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb.

1. Our view of ourselves changes:

2. Our view of the ministry changes:

3. Our view of God changes:

#### B. Some roots of barrenness

##### 1. **Selfishness:** It would be difficult to bear fruit if you don’t care *There is work/struggle involved*

##### 2. **Warfare:** OT warfare armies; 1. *Sow salt in fields* 2. *Place rocks in fields* 3. *Chop fruit trees down* 4. *Fill up wells*

a. Your enemy tries to deny you normal fruitfulness!

b. OT pattern of assault on children/fruitfulness!

1. *Pharaoh: Kill the male children!* b. *Job: Satan assaults – his children are killed/don’t live*

2. *Judg 6:3-4* And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them; And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth ...

c. NT pattern of assault on fruitfulness: Herod: Children in Bethlehem murdered

1. *Mark 4:15* Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

##### 3. **The work of God:** V5/6 the Lord closed her womb...

a. God was trying to help her: To birth something wonderful – a prophet for the nation

b. Disciples: Reference points that will help us for the rest of our ministry

### III. A FRUITFULNESS BREAKTHROUGH

#### A. Good news for the barren: That is not the final word in life!

##### 1. God makes the barren fruitful! *Psa 113:9* He makes the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children...

##### 2. It is God’s will that we be fruitful! Anything less is unacceptable – is robbery!

a. *V19* The lord remembered her *V20* she bore a son...

#### B. 3 elements of break in fruitfulness

##### 1. **Faith:** Must decide to believe who God is/what He has promised – God is able!

a. Not our past experience/current circumstances – what God says! *According to your faith be it unto you...*

##### 2. **Spirit:** There must be something on the inside...what happens when people/circumstances discourage us?

a. *V15* no, my lord...I am of a sorrowful Spirit/poured out my complaint to the Lord!

b. God responds to determination: People who won’t take no for an answer (Elijah prays 7x for rain)

##### 3. **Prayer:** Prayer involves warfare/taking dominion over demonic powers (get your hands off converts!)

a. **Acts 16:** Paul takes authority over spirit affecting their outreach – come out!!

b. Crucial need in prayer for new converts: **Revelation** – God must open their eyes! **Light!**

1. *2 Cor 4:6* For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ