

A small green seedling with two leaves is growing out of dark, cracked soil. The soil is dry and has a network of fine cracks. The seedling is positioned on the left side of the frame. The background is a blurred, textured surface of soil.

When
the focus
shifts

What is prayer?

John Calvin called prayer the “chief exercise of faith.”

John Piper says prayer is “intentionally conveying message to God”

Our sin separated us from God. We no longer talk like we do with humans.

Gen 4:26 - At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD.

1st time prayer is mentioned




God communicates either via revelation or illumination

Revelation is the disclosure of something which was previously unknown.
(Testimony)


Illumination is the work of the Holy Spirit whereby He convinces us of the truthfulness of the Scriptures, helps us to understand them, and assists us in our obedience to them

John 14:26, Eph 1:17,18

1 Cor 2:10 - these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit




1 Sam 1 - 3 Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the Lord. 4 On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife 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.



1 Sam 1 - 6 And her rival used to provoke her grievously 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 And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?”

*Closed/barren means there was no signs of life, no miscarriage, nothingness



10 She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. 11 **And she vowed a vow and said, “O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”**




She vowed a vow

Lord of hosts

Amos 4:13 - For the Lord is the one who shaped the mountains, stirs up the winds, and reveals his thoughts to mankind. He turns the light of dawn into darkness and treads on the heights of the earth. **The Lord God of Heaven's Armies is his name!**

son


I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life



17 Then Eli answered, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him.”

18 And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

19 They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her.



When her prayer was confirmed by Eli in the temple(church), a judge and priest upon whom the Holy Spirit rested prophesied that her request would be granted, her heart changed

Hannah gave to God from a place of poverty instead of asking from a place of poverty

Mark 12:44 - For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on