

SHOULD I PRAY FOR MYSELF?  
(Why 2 Spouses Is A Bad Idea)

Dear Friend:

We find it quite natural to pray for others. We pray for people we know and people we don't know. We pray for our country and our country's politicians (we should). Some people feel a bit uncomfortable praying for themselves – particularly for God to bring blessings. If you are one of them, let me tell you the story about Hannah and her request for a blessing...

Hannah's story (and her prayer) is found in I Samuel chapter 1. Hannah was a godly woman married to a godly man, Elkanah. The problem was Hannah was not Elkanah's only wife, he was also married to another woman, Peninnah. This devotional article is not about polygamy – we can deal with that another time, back to Hannah. Hannah could not get pregnant, Peninnah had no problem getting pregnant, she had a child, and we quickly learn Peninnah loved to brag to Hannah.

Undoubtedly, Hannah was deeply broken in heart and spirit. When you have time read I Samuel chapter 1. Hannah does pray a blessing for herself, she wants a child, and she gives birth to a son. When you read the story of Hannah, you will see that there are 3 things to know about praying for yourself. First your prayer must be sincere. Read I Samuel 1 and you will see the deep sincerity of Hannah. The second thing you should know about praying for yourself is that you must not pray selfishly. This sounds contradictory to today's title but praying unselfishly means that you do not pray for something at the expense of others, you do not pray with impure motives, and that you sincerely thank God if he chooses to bless you. The third thing to do when praying for yourself; pray specifically. God knows what you want and what you need. Pray specifically and show him what you want and what you need.

It is ok to pray for yourself; it is ok to pray for blessings. There are many examples beyond Hannah. Think of Jabez, David, prophets, Jesus, and Paul.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Mike

**Prayers:** Margaret Jewett (shut-in of the month), Missy Dunaway, Anna Louis Beaver

**Events:**

- **January 22<sup>nd</sup> after church:** Easter Egg meeting - There will be a short meeting after church in the Youth room. Please come and see how you can help serve the church with this fundraising project.
- **January 29<sup>th</sup> after church:** Potluck - Invite a friend to come to church with you...we always have plenty of food!