

Real Character in the Making:
Hannah's Prayer and Dedication

1 Samuel 1:9-18; 24-28; 2:1



⁵ But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb.

– 1 Samuel 1

9 After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. **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.”

¹² As she continued praying before the Lord, **Eli observed** her mouth. ¹³ **Hannah** was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore **Eli took** her to be a drunken woman. ¹⁴ And **Eli said to her**, “How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.” ¹⁵ **But Hannah answered**, “No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, **but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord.** ¹⁶ Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.” -- **1 Samuel 1**



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.

-- 1 Samuel 1

Barbara Johnson (1927-2007) Author of “Geranium Lady,” a title taken from her bestselling book, *Stick a Geranium in Your Hat and Be Happy*, her homespun humor and hope in God in the midst of tragedy, ministered to millions.



A strong Christian woman who relied on her faith in God and her sense of humor to persevere through many devastating experiences, her life was plagued by a string of tragedies. Her husband was in a near fatal accident and slowly recovered from debilitating injuries. She lost one son in Vietnam and another son to a drunk driver. Her third son was estranged from the family while pursuing a homosexual lifestyle. But, she emerged from these experiences having learned that though pain is inevitable, people can choose to pick flowers instead of weeds.

24 And **when she had weaned him**, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. And the child was young. **25** Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli.

— 1 Samuel 1



26 And **she said**, “Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. **27** For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him. **28 Therefore I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord.”**
And he worshiped the Lord there.

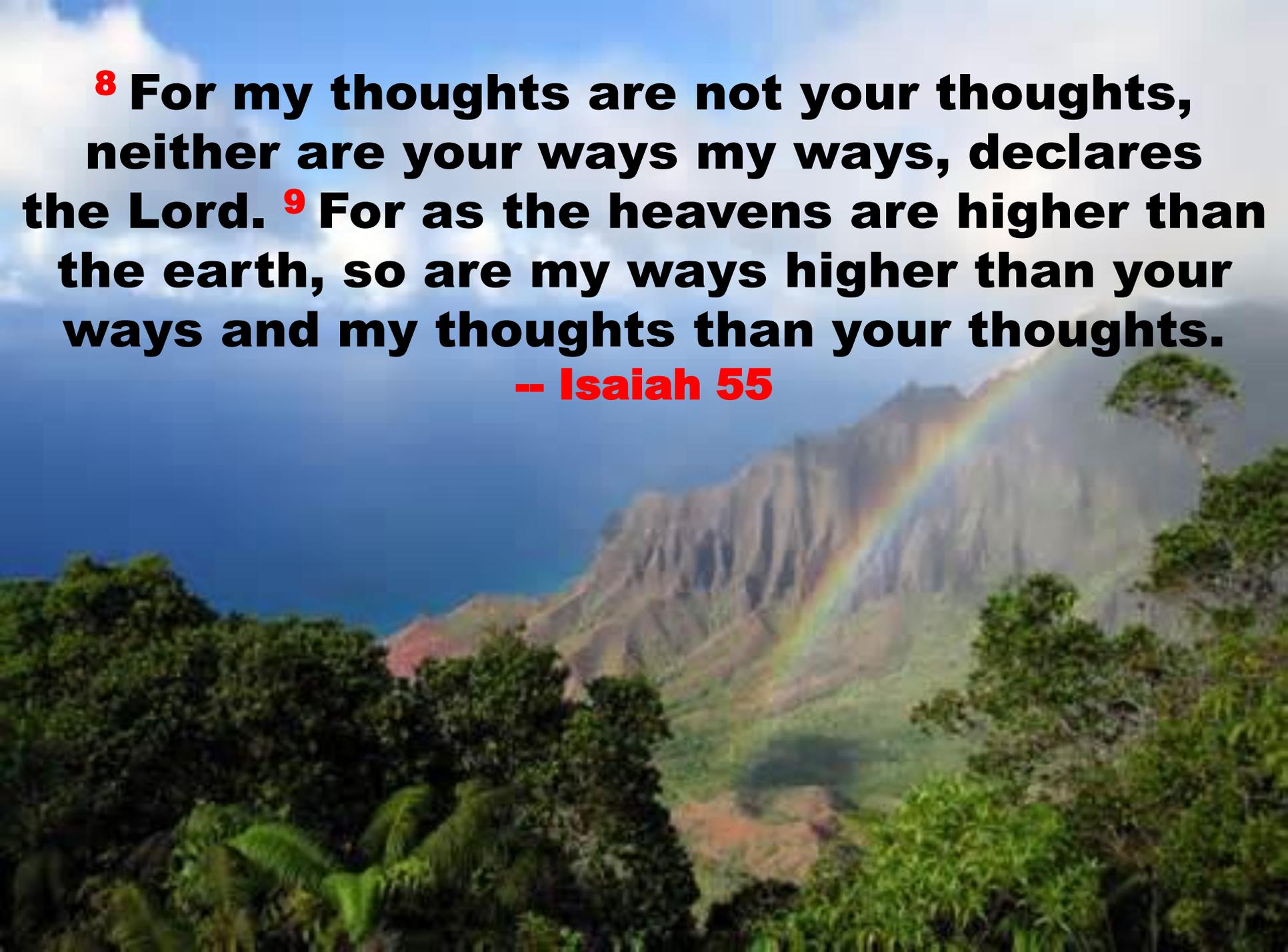
– 1 Samuel 1

2 And **Hannah prayed and said**, “My heart exults in the Lord; my horn is exalted in the Lord. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation.

– 1 Samuel 2

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

-- Isaiah 55



God Answer Prayer in Three Ways:
Yes, No, and Wait
Be Faithful to
Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

