

# 1 Samuel 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth.

## Analysis

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The phrase 'continued praying' (Hebrew: hirbetah lehitpallel, literally 'multiplied to pray') indicates extended, persistent intercession. Eli's observation of her mouth shows her intensity, yet also his suspicion. The high priest watched but could not hear - a subtle commentary on his spiritual deafness that would be confirmed by God's message in chapter 3. True prayer often appears strange to those focused only on external forms. Hannah's extended communion with God contrasts sharply with the brief, formulaic prayers typical of religious ritual.

## Historical Context

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Jewish tradition holds that Hannah's silent prayer established the model for the Amidah (standing prayer), the central prayer of Jewish liturgy. The Talmud (Berakhot 31a) derives several laws of prayer from Hannah's example.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. What can we learn from Hannah's persistence in prayer despite being misunderstood?
2. How might your prayer life be viewed by those who observe only external forms?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהָיָה כִּי

H1961

H3588

And it came to pass as she continued

H7235

לִפְנֵי יְהוָה לְהִתְפַּלֵּל

praying

H6419

before

H6440

פִּיהָ: אֶת שֵׁם רַ וְעַל יְהוָה

the LORD

H3068

that Eli

H5941

marked

H8104

H853

her mouth

H6310

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Thessalonians 5:17** (Prayer): Pray without ceasing.

**James 5:16** (Prayer): Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

**Colossians 4:2** (Prayer): Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

**Ephesians 6:18** (Prayer): Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

**Luke 18:1** (Prayer): And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;