

1 Samuel 1:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad.

Analysis

Hannah's request to 'find grace' (matzah chen) in Eli's sight confirms her acceptance of his priestly authority despite his initial error. Her immediate transformation - resuming eating with changed countenance - demonstrates the power of Spirit-given assurance. She had not yet received her request but acted as though it were already granted. This faith-response anticipates the New Testament teaching that faith is 'the substance of things hoped for' (Hebrews 11:1). Hannah left the encounter changed, not because circumstances had changed, but because she had met with God.

Historical Context

The phrase 'her countenance was no more sad' literally means 'her face was no longer hers' - that is, the face marked by grief was replaced by a different expression. Such transformations after prayer encounters appear elsewhere in Scripture (Exodus 34:29-35; Acts 6:15).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Have you experienced the assurance of answered prayer before actually receiving what you requested?
2. How does faith transform our emotional state even before circumstances change?

Interlinear Text

וַתֹּאמֶר	אֶתְמַצְּ	שְׁפָחֶתְךָ	חַן	בְּעֵינֶיךָ	וַתֵּלֶךְ	
And she said	find	Let thine handmaid	grace	in thy sight		H1980
H559	H4672	H8198	H2580	H5869		
הָאִשָּׁה	לְדֶרֶכָּהּ	וַתֹּאכַל	וּפָנֶיהָ	לֹא	הָיָה	לָהּ
So the woman	her way	and did eat	and her countenance			
H802	H1870	H398	H6440	H3808	H1961	H0
עוֹד:						
H5750						

Additional Cross-References

Ruth 2:13 (Parallel theme): Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens.

Romans 15:13 (Parallel theme): Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Ecclesiastes 9:7 (Parallel theme): Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.

Genesis 33:15 (Grace): And Esau said, Let me now leave with thee some of the folk that are with me. And he said, What needeth it? let me find grace in the sight of my lord.

John 16:24 (Parallel theme): Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

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