

# BLESSED BARRENNESS

*Apostle Mark Kauffman*

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Isaiah 54:1 *“Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD.”*

In Biblical times, it was considered a curse to be barren therefore having a child was a blessing. Every woman in scripture that bore a child believed that they were helping to bring the promise of Abraham to pass, that his seed would be as the stars of heaven and the sands on the seashore.

Hannah is one of my favorite of all barren women in scripture. Hannah's name means to be favored and graced, yet we can only imagine the disgrace and pain that she must have gone through during the years of barrenness. Elkanah, her husband, had another wife named Peninnah who had 10 sons. Years of barrenness and pleading for God to open her womb without God answering those prayers must have left Hannah discouraged and confused.

Every year Elkanah and his two wives would go to Shiloh to worship the Lord, giving Him thanks for what He has done over the last year. I can picture Hannah

standing in the shadows of Peninnah as she worshipped and thanked God in celebration of all her children. I can imagine Hannah weeping and crying wondering if next year, she would come celebrating with her arms full with the promise of God - I call this the shame of Shiloh.

In God, there are seasons of shame that will be followed by seasons of great blessing. Our text tells us that Peninnah was Hannah's adversary and 'provoked her sore to make her fret because the Lord had shut up her womb'. The more our adversaries offend us the more grace and power the Lord pours into us. Everything that we go through will be worth going through, because the measure you have been afflicted is the measure of glory and grace you will receive. We are to never allow our affliction to make us bitter but better.

I find it interesting that it was the Lord that shut up her womb. There will be times in our life when we will feel unproductive and unfruitful in what I call "Seasons of Barrenness" and what may seem like a curse upon us is really



a blessing in disguise. During unfruitful seasons we all have a tendency to settle for less than God's best. I'm sure Hannah would have settled for a child but God intended upon giving her a prophet who would anoint the king of Israel. When delays come into our life and prayers go unanswered, it is imperative that we remember that delays are not denials but set up for divine delights. God will answer at the appointed time. Our Bible tells us that Elkanah loved Hannah very much and gave her a worthy portion. When trouble and shame come in to our life, it is a sign that God will give us a double portion anointing in due season. Many times if God delays in answering your prayers it is because you are one of His favorites. Being one of His favorites, the Holy Spirit will enroll you in the school of barrenness by shutting up your womb of productivity. Your barrenness is not a sign that God has forgotten you, but on the contrary, it is a sign that God has favored you.

One year at Shiloh, Hannah got desperate enough and broke the bands of barrenness forever. Hannah became so desperate for a son she was willing to give him back at the time of his birth. Such devotion moves God like nothing else. Everything that is born of Him must return to Him for His glory and His glory alone. When we arrive at this place of holy devotion we are ready to break out of our barrenness and move into abundance. Eli the

priest had never seen such desperation in his ministry, He confused her with being a drunken woman, not understanding her travail and groaning would open the heavens and her womb allowing her to receive and conceive from the Lord. The Word of God says she rose up and worshipped the Lord and the Lord remembered her. When we learn to sing in the place of barrenness He will open up our spiritual womb of possibility and potential and lead us to a fruitful place in him. Sing O Barren! Singing denotes our focus on God - barren points to man's prospective. When we learn to sing in the midst of barren places, we will learn that singing brings what we desire into manifestation.

Elkanah asked Hannah, am I not better to you than 10 sons? The Lord is asking us the same thing, He wants to know if He is better to us than any gift, healing, ministry, dream or vision that we desire to come to past. Our love for God must be greater than any purpose or plan that He has for us. We will never become bitter if we love the One that is better. At this present time God may have enrolled you in the school of barrenness and in that place He will teach you to sing. Singing is an act of our faith in spite of empty arms and empty dreams. Remember that there is a blessing in your barrenness; God has something better in mind than what you would settle for.

Singing in the midst of barrenness helps us maintain our focus and expectation. Expectation is the mother of all miracles. I believe that as you read this article that God will renew your expectation. What we expect is what we receive in our life, no more and no less. Keep singing and watch God break the bands of barrenness.



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Being passionately involved in both ministry and business has brought a unique ability to equip and train marketplace ministers to link the idea of prosperity to a God given plan that will advance the kingdom of God. He also oversees Impacting the Nations Network which oversees 100 pastors and churches based in the nation of India. Kauffman is the international editor of the VACHANACHOSHANAM Newspaper in India. This newspaper not only spreads the message of the kingdom in India but throughout Asia and the Middle East.

Through the power of God and word of knowledge he sees many miraculous healings and deliverances as he ministers the Gospel of the Kingdom. His heart is to see the body demonstrate the nature and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ thus fulfilling their destiny.

He is married to Jill Kauffman, who pastors along with him, and has 3 sons Anthony, Ryan & Christian Mark and a granddaughter, Alexandra Irene.