

# Message Notes

Pastor Steve Durand

**Date:** March 17, 2019

**Bible Focus:** 1 Samuel 1:1-20

**Series:** Only by Prayer

**Message Title:** Why Bother?

**James 5:16b** – *The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

Hannah's example teaches us that God looks with favor on prayers that:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion

I Samuel 1:1-20

1. When was a time that you really prayed for and longed for something with every fiber of your being, like Hannah's desire for a child? What did you learn through that experience?
2. Why, specifically, do you think Hannah's prayers were so powerful and effective?
3. Why do you think God waited so long to answer Hannah's prayers?
4. After hearing this message, how would you describe the concept of fervent prayer to someone else?
5. Would you describe yourself as someone who prays with fervor? Why or why not?
6. Why does it matter to God that our prayers are fervent? What does Hannah's degree of fervency in prayer say about what she believed to be true about prayer and about God?
7. What connection might last week's focus on desperate prayer have to do with this week's focus on fervent prayer? How are desperate prayer and fervent prayer alike, and how are they distinct from one another?
8. Henry Blackaby says, "God promises all believers that if we live righteously and pray fervently, our prayers will be effective and produce significant results. If we are praying but seeing no results, then, could it be that we are not as fervent in our praying or living as righteously as we should be?" Do you agree or disagree with Blackaby's thinking? Why or why not? And if not, how are we to understand and apply James 5:16b?
9. What has God brought to mind in terms of a next-step of application that you can take this week?