



# Transforming Word Church

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2020 – VOLUME 2

## STRETCH

*In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul. ~ Psalms 94:19*

The past six months I've had some extremely hard moments. And it felt like the pandemic didn't do anything but make my issues feel more complex. It felt like the longer the quarantine went on the worse my mental health got.

I think a lot of people were going through a lot during this pandemic whether it was not having a job, learning how to work from home, not having any income and feeling lonely because we had to be locked up in our homes.

I know God has been here the entire six months but there has been so many times I have questioned why he hasn't taken any of this heaviness away.

And during this time, it I felt I couldn't do anything right. From making small decisions in my personal life to being productive on my job. It wasn't until I heard Pastor say, "God is taking us out of our comfort

zone." It clicked, it hit me right then and there. These are growing pains.

We ALL are going through some type of growing pains. Then I remembered the scripture I saved to my phone. "**In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul.**" **Psalms 94:19**

No matter how chaotic my life becomes I know the one place I can get comfort from is the Lord. These last six months have stretched me to what seems no end. I now know God is doing this to make me strong and for anyone else who might be struggling as well. None of this feels good but we all have to go through some type of discomfort.

If we stay with God, we will be made strong and worthy. We won't fall and will stand tall.

-Kendra Hicks

## Virtual Church Events

- **Daily Minute Devotion – on Facebook Live @ 12pm**  
**Sunday**
- **Sunday School – on Zoom @ 9:30am**
- **Morning Service – on Facebook Live @ 10:30am**  
**Monday**
- **Bible Study – on Zoom @ 7pm**  
**Wednesday**
- **Prayer Meeting – on Zoom @ 7pm**

# Carolyn's Pen

## And Then... Hannah Prayed

*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (James 5:16)*

The woman, Hannah, longed to be a mother. Month after month she waited to see if this would be her time. The passing months became years and still no child. With each disappointment she grew more disheartened, and finally she became bitter. To add insult to injury, her husband's other wife had children and took great pleasure in mocking Hannah because of her barrenness.

Once a year her husband would take his family to worship and sacrifice before the Lord at Shiloh. At those times he would be very generous to his wives and children. Hannah always got a double portion because of his love for her.

It is now that time again. Her husband, Elkanah, as usual has given Hannah double what he has given everyone else. Yet again, she has been mocked by the other wife. Hannah is depressed and not eating her food. Her husband said, ***Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am I not better to you than ten sons?*** (I Samuel 1:8) That was the proverbial 'straw that broke the camel's back'. The pain and the humiliation had become too much to bear. She immediately separated herself from everyone else and went to the temple to pray.

As she was there weeping and praying before the altar, the priest came upon her and thought, because of her seemingly erratic behavior, that she was drunk. Without hesitation, he rebuked her. ***"Oh no sir!" she replied. "I haven't been drinking wine or anything stronger. But I am very discouraged, and I was pouring out my heart to the LORD. Don't think I am a wicked woman! For I have been praying out of great anguish and sorrow."***



***"In that case," Eli said, "go in peace! May the God of Israel grant the request you have asked of him." (I Samuel 1:15-17)*** Her sorrow turned to gladness as she heard the word of the LORD to her.

The LORD granted Hannah's request even as the prophet had said. It is obvious this was not the first time she prayed for a child. So why was this time different? This time she went before the LORD and poured out of her heart, and in the fervency of her prayer her desire intersected with the will of God and the timing of God. The LORD's plan for her was far greater than she knew. Hannah's first born was to be the child Samuel who would be the prophet of God who would anoint David as king. She went on to have a house full of children. (Read her song in I Samuel 2)

Her barrenness was not without purpose nor the timing of her pregnancy. We can learn from Hannah's experience that it is always right to pray according to the will of the God. Jesus taught us to pray to the Father, ***"Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:10)*** He also said, ***"Truly, truly, I tell you whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. (John 16:23)*** The LORD has a plan for each one of our lives. As we pray and find the heart of God concerning us, we will as Jesus said pray and he will give us what we ask in His name.

We can learn further from Hannah that the LORD desires the best for us. Often times the LORD is not saying no but rather HE is saying not yet. Let us always pray knowing the Father desires that we have life and that more abundantly. Blessings and peace to you fellow saints as you go before the LORD in prayer.



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