



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXXV July 14, 2019 No. 26

Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* I want to give credit to my friend David Musgrave for some seed thoughts that led to some further study. Of course any errors in application or

transliteration lie with me. Still I wanted to share a brief thought he conveyed and look at some thoughts that came to my mind as well.

In an email regarding some writing he is reviewing for me, Dr. Musgrave noted that he remembered 1 Sam 1:27, where Hannah says ". . . the Lord has given to me my request which I have made of Him," the last word being literally ("from with Him," Heb. *me'immo*). It made him wonder - was the possibility of one's (in this case Hannah) being with God different from His being with someone? As was pointed out to Dr. Musgrave by another, the text reads in such a way as to leave the impression that Hannah had been "with" God in prayer.

Significant in the Hebrew text as well are the words translated "I have lent him" and "he is lent" as contained in verses 27 & 28 as they pertain to Hannah's request. It is possible the writer had in mind, just as Hannah made a request to God, God has also requested something of Hannah; the LORD requests that Samuel be given to him for lifelong service. The Hebrew perfect shows the clear intention of permanent dedication to the Lord. Hannah is not temporarily lending her child to Yahweh in the hopes that the LORD will give him back at some point.

There is no way to narrow down passages that stand out to me for what ever passage I am able to spend time with, the significant nuggets seem to never end. I am thankful that God has revealed His mind to man. I am thankful that I can look deeply into His word. The depth of Hannah's faith that the biblical text reveals humbles me. I long for a stronger faith each day.

jfb

E-town Youth Rally

**Friday night, August 2
and
Saturday, August 3**

**Joe Wells from Spring
Hill, Tennessee
will be the
Keynote Speaker.**

**More information in
next week's bulletin.**

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — Re-Created into Christ's Image
1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

**P.M. — Zechariah
Zechariah 13:1**

How Blessed Is Your Life?

From time to time we will sing the song *Count Your Many Blessings*. As we sing we are reminded to “name them one by one.” Have you ever tried to stop and write a list of your blessings? I guess I have never physically done so but I have very often, while driving, tried to think of every way I have been blessed. There is no way to count them all.

Though we cannot count all of our blessings, that is no reason to avoid thinking about them and being thankful for them. We often have a tendency as humans to focus upon the negatives in our lives. I am reminded of the old preacher illustration about how love might express itself in marriage. Specifically the illustration highlights I Corinthians 13 that says love takes no account of wrongs. In the illustration, a wife is mad at her husband (sorry women... I don't know why the wife is made to look bad in the illustration as opposed to the husband). She decides they will sit down with pen and paper and write down each other's faults. The woman is frantically writing away. She looks up from her task to see her husband writing slowly and smiling. This infuriates the wife so she writes more of his faults. Finally, she is done and suggests they trade lists and read the faults the other spouse sees in them. To her surprise, when she gets the list from her husband which is supposed to highlight her faults all it has is one phrase written over and over all the way down a number of pages—that phrase was “I love you!” She was thinking about the negatives in her husband, and he was looking at the positives in her.

I imagine if we would look closely at our lives, we would see so much positive blessing in our lives that the negative elements of our lives would be diminished. Sure, there will always be things to discourage us! Satan thrives on using discouragement to get us to turn away from God! Don't fall for Satan's tricks. Even if we suffer in this life, our home will be with God eternally—if we are found faithful.

Use the positive blessings in your life to keep you focused on your hope of heaven. Indeed, count your many blessings...name them one by one! If you do, you will find whatever discouragement Satan throws your way, it won't stick. May God bless us as we continue steadfast in faithfulness and good works!

*John F. Board
Elizabethtown, KY*