**Elijah**

**Committed ° Courageous ° Common**

**Week 6**

What a journey we’ve already been on with Elijah; and we’re only 6 weeks into this study! We’ve seen a number of things that have benefited us and our personal walk so far as we’ve looked at God’s dealings with Elijah. Week 1 we looked at the concept of prayer as James 5 tells us some precious truth regarding the prayers of Elijah. I want to revisit the topic of prayer this week because we see some very valuable truths regarding the prayer life of the saints in this passage.

To begin with, here are 4 suggestions from Hampton Keathley that I found beneficial and I think will benefit you as well as we seek to move ever closer to the Lord and His will in our lives.

**(1) “Be sure your prayer is grounded in the Word. This gives confidence.”**

In verse 1 of chapter 18 Elijah is given the command to go and show himself, but he is also told by the Lord that the time has come for the drought to be over and for rain to return to the earth. Many people would take that word and use it as a reason not to pray. “God has already said that He’s going to do it, why do I need to pray for it” would be their reasoning. Elijah demonstrates for us this precious truth that God’s promises are the invitation for us to pray. Because He has given me this promise, I will use that as in invitation to remind Him and to ask Him to do what he has said.

Back in our study on David we spoke of how it must delight God to be reminded by His children of the things He has promised. On the level of earth I often find my heart overflowing when I tell our son Elijah about things that we will be doing in the days or weeks to come and then he reminds me time after time what I’ve promised him as he anticipates it actually taking place. As much as I delight in fulfilling promises to my son (and you to your children) how much more does God delight in fulfilling His promises to us. That’s exactly what we have in His Word – promises. If our prayers are grounded in His promises, we can be confident that He will do as He has said.

**(2) “Be sure your prayer is not from carnal or wrong motives, but directed by biblical principles. Rest in the intercessory ministry of the Holy Spirit who always prays according to the will of God (Rom. 8:26-27)”.**

This seems so subtle, yet it is the basis for the predicament that Elijah finds himself in chapter 19. When you read “wrong motives,” it sounds like we’re praying for all manner of wickedness and vice to rain like manna from Heaven when in reality it’s simply NOT doing what we discussed in point #1. Elijah never received a word from the Lord regarding what would happen when they arrived at Jezreel, yet Elijah expected something to happen that didn’t – and it greatly affected him. Elijah didn’t set out to do wrong any more than Peter did when he walked upon the water. Yes, a wave took his eyes off the Lord and he began to sink, but he was still moving towards Jesus.

The point is, it’s easy for us to miss this. We can feel like we are moving where God is leading, but if we get ahead for WHATEVER reason, or miss His call, we can veer off path. If it sounds intimidating, do as Keathley says and look at the principles in Rom. 8:26-27 and rest in that.

(3) **“Keep on asking, looking, and knocking in a faith that rests in God’s fatherly care, love, and timing (Matt. 7:7-8).”**

In this same connection, I love 1 Kings 19:5-6. Had Elijah veered off path? Yes. Had he looked to his own power and ability to deliver him from the hand of Jezebel? Yes. Does God cut him off after these mistakes have been made? Absolutely not. When Elijah is at his lowest – God shows up through an angel and provides just like he’d done in Cherith and Zeraphath previously. Food. Drink. Rest. When the flesh is weak and ready to throw in the towel, God says “I’ll take care of this.” What an incredible picture of a father caring for his beloved. Brothers, sisters, we are His beloved children as well. In your times of deepest despair, don’t forget that.

**(4) Above all, ask the Lord to teach you what He wants to do in you and through you during this period of waiting. (Prov. 2:6)**

No time is wasted when it’s time spent with the Lord. You might be asking, knocking, seeking, listening, weeping, rejoicing, praising, worshiping and anything in between – it’s all profitable. Remember that it was the time that Elijah spent alone in the wilderness and in the upper room at the widow’s house that God prepared him for the ministry ahead of him.

I also think of 1 Kings 3:9 where King Solomon asks God for wisdom and discernment in how he should lead the nation. Our prayer should be the same in whatever situation we are in. The very next verse tells us that “The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this.” Again, I have to imagine that the Lord delights when we turn to Him first for wisdom and guidance. Not second, third, fifth or fiftieth. Remember Proverbs 3:5-6 from a couple weeks ago.

**When you consider James 5:16-18 as well as the events on Mt. Carmel, what else do you see regarding prayer? Faith? Boldness? Persistence?**

**On a separate note, how many of us can identify with Elijah’s struggles after Carmel?**

Memory Verse: Proverbs 2:6 - ***For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.***