

THE GOD THAT MOVES MOUNTAINS.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TODAY AND FOREVER.

“THE LIFE AND FAITH OF ELIJAH”

MAY 28, 2023

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ANCHOR BIBLE REFERENCES

➤ Hebrews 13: 5-8

➤ ⁵ God has said,

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”

➤ ⁶ So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can mortal man do to me?”

➤ ⁷ Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.
Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

➤ ⁸ **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

**Our Mandate Remains: “The House of Prayer for all Nations,
Extending God’s Love to all the Nations.”**

We are sowers (not eaters) but the sower reaps in multiple folds.



The Leaders, consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Luke 5:37-38

"No one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will spill, and the wineskins will be ruined."

"Instead, new wine is poured into new wineskins."

(This year, we need to have a fresh vision of our Christian journey)

As we consider the life of the leaders and their faith, let us apply the lessons and, thus, create new wineskins and expand our spiritual container to enable God to move the mountains He has planned to move for us.



The Leader, ELIJAH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

James 5:17 says that:

17Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

18Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth yielded its crops.

The Leader, ELIJAH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

- James referred to Elijah in the context of James admonition to us to pray “**the Prayer of Faith.**”
- **Hebrews 11:1** NKJV, defines faith as:
“¹the substance of what we hope for, and the certainty of what we do not see.”

Heb. 11:3 also says “³By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

“The Prayer of Faith” is not one I which we ask for so many things in one prayer. It is “the prayer of faith” - **one BIG ask.**

The Leader, ELIJAH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

- In Genesis, when God demonstrated what James refers to as “the prayer of faith”, He commanded each new thing to be, using a different statement or command after the first has happened. That His command is a prayer of faith
- **Genesis 1:3** “And God said, let there be light” and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good.
- **Genesis 1:6** “And God said, let there be an expanse between waters to separate water from water, it became.
- **Genesis 1:9; 11; 14; 20;24; 26 each starts with “God said”**
- **Because each of God’s command is similar to what James refers to as a “a prayer of faith”, He did not combine more than one in one command. Also, God allowed each to come to pass first before another command was offered.**

The Leader, ELIJAH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

Many of our other needs are often settled by a combination of other means that are not 'prayer of faith':

- Seeking first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:3)
- Humility (Psalm 25:9 - He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.)
- Thanksgiving (Psalm 50:14-15)
- Praise (Acts 16:25-26 - Paul and Silas were praising God)
- Worship (John 4:23 – worship in Spirit and Truth)
- Righteousness (Prov. 10:24 - Desire of the righteous shall be granted)

'The Prayer of Faith' is characterized by a 'BIG BANG' outcome.

The Leader, ELIJAH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

- ➔ In **1 Samuel 1**, we saw that Hannah prayed a prayer of faith as she asked God for a son.
- ➔ Hanna had other needs but they did not feature during this prayer of faith.

1 Samuel 1: ¹⁰ In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. ¹¹ And she made a vow, saying, "Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son (very specific), then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

Hanna prayed 'a prayer of faith' asking God for a son

The Leader, ELIJAH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

➔ Elijah's 'prayer of faith' was for the purpose of dealing with sin in Israel to show forth the praise of God?

➔ 1 Kings 16

²⁹ In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab son of Omri became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria over Israel twenty-two years. ³⁰ Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him. ³¹ He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter ..., and began to serve Baal and worship him. ³² He set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he built in Samaria. ³³ Ahab also made an Asherah pole and did more to arouse the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel, than did all the kings of Israel before him.

Elijah was angry at Ahab's sin in Israel and cursed the land....

The Leader, ELIJAH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

➔ 1 Kings 7:, Now Elijah..., said to Ahab,

“¹As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.”

Elijah’s prayer of faith was answered by God:

According to James 5:17-18 “¹⁷... it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth yielded its crops.

1 Kings 18: 1-2 “After a long time, in the third year, the word of the LORD came to Elijah: “Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land.” ² So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab.”

The Leader, ELIJAH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

➔ So, what qualities do we see in Elijah that could have enabled the outcome of his way of life?

1. Elijah said “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve (1 Kings 17:1)

Brethren we see a man who serves God, who is bold, who is sure of his God and what His God can do and a man who abhors sin.

Bible says:

- Flee from sin
- Resist the enemy
- Be bold as a lion
- Show holy anger
- If you must boast, boast in the Lord

The Leader, ELIJAH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

➔ **2. A selfless service for God**

Elijah knew that if there is no rain on the land even him will be affected by the famine, but he did not care. The offence against God was more grievous than the famine and hunger that would confront him.

Matthew 6:26 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink.”

Romans 8:31 says "If God Is for Us, Who Can Be against Us" Mean?

Hebrews 13:6 “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.”

➔ **And so what happened?.... Elijah was Fed by Ravens!**

1 Kings 17:2 “² Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: ³ “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. ⁴ You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.”

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- ➔ When the brook dried up, the Lord sent him to somewhere else and continued to feed him and give him water to drink until the day rain came to the land:

1 Kings 17: ⁷ Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹ “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.”

3. Elijah learned to be completely dependent on God

- ➔ **1 Kings 17** ¹⁰ So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called, “**And bring me, please, a piece of bread.**” ¹² “As surely as the LORD your God lives,”

The Leader, ELIJAH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.”

¹³ Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son.

- ¹⁴ **For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.’”**
- ¹⁵ **She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶ For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.**

The Leader, ELIJAH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

Brethren, once we are working for God, God will take care of us. Even the widow will now benefit from the favour of God because she made herself available to be used of God.

4. Elijah had a tight relationship with God

In **1 Kings 19**, there was a conversation between God and Elijah:

⁹ ... And the word of the LORD came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰ He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” ¹¹ The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.”

Brethren, God did not question Elijah’s zeal for God; It was not in doubt

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5. Elijah Prayed Earnestly (the Prayer of Faith needs fervency)

James 5:17 says that: 17Elijah prayed earnestly that it would not rain”

1 Kings 17:17 the son of the Widow at Zarephath became ill and was dying.

¹⁹ “.. . Elijah took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. ²⁰ Then he cried out to the LORD, “LORD my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?” ²¹ Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the LORD, “LORD my God, let this boy’s life return to him!” ²² The LORD heard Elijah’s cry, and the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived.

1 Kings 18:41 And Elijah said to Ahab, “Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain.” ⁴² So Ahab went off to eat and drink, **but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees.**

1 Kings 19: 10 Elijah replied God, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty.”

Conclusion,

- Brethren, Elijah's way of life and his faith are worthy of imitation:
- His boldness
- His confrontational approach to dealing with sin
- His dependence on God
- His selfless service
- His zeal and fervency
- His prayer of faith