

## Outline

- I. In 1 Kings 17, Elijah appears on the scene with no introduction of his family history or how he came to know the Lord.

*And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.*

1 KINGS 17:1

- A. There is no indication in Scripture that Elijah even knew King Ahab or had any political clout or special access to King Ahab; just the opposite is implied.
  - B. Ahab and his wife, Jezebel, were trying to stamp out the worship of the true God of Israel in favor of the pagan worship of Baal.
  - C. Elijah put his life at risk by coming to Ahab.
  - D. People were afraid to speak of their faith in the Lord.
  - E. In many ways, it was very similar to what we see happening today.
  - F. Many believers are cowed into submission just as the people of Elijah's day were.
  - G. Where did Elijah get the boldness to do this?
  - H. It was the word he had from God.
- II. God's Word is powerful (Heb. 4:12).
- A. It's like a fire that devours anything in its path (Jer. 5:14).
  - B. It's also like a hammer that breaks into pieces everything that opposes it (Jer. 23:29).
  - C. Anyone with a word from God is never inferior to those who don't have a word from the Lord.
- III. You may be thinking, *I wish I had a word from the Lord.*
- A. You do—you have millions of words from the Lord in your Bible!
  - B. It's not the lack of God speaking that is the problem; it's the lack of people realizing what they have in God's Word and acting on it that is the problem today.
  - C. If that's you, you just haven't fully recognized and truly understood what you have.
  - D. Maybe you allow the world and the fear of man to intimidate you (Prov. 29:25) and make you feel like you're the one who is weird for being moral and believing that some things are absolute.
  - E. But you're the one who has the revelation of God's Word—the problem is you just aren't as bold with it as Elijah was.

- IV. What would have happened if Elijah had just stayed in his prayer closet and only *prayed* about this word God had spoken to him about the drought?
- Well, even if the drought had come, King Ahab wouldn't have recognized it as being the hand of God, and he would have written it off as circumstance and coincidence.
  - I'm sure that when Elijah boldly spoke what God had told him, it was really easy for the king to just reject this.
  - But as the drought manifested over time...

*There [was] no nation or kingdom, whither [King Ahab] hath not sent to seek [Elijah]: and when they said, He is not [here]; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found [him] not.*

1 KINGS 18:10, BRACKETS MINE

- Elijah's boldness to go straight to the very top and speak forth the word is what set his whole ministry in motion.
- V. Boldly speaking forth and acting upon the Word of God in faith will set your life and ministry in motion.
- It doesn't matter if a word on salvation, Holy Spirit baptism, or healing is all you have; the average person doesn't know that.
  - You have to speak up to make a difference!
  - Today, many people have substituted prayer for speaking forth and acting on God's Word.
  - Elijah could have prayed from then until Jesus came, but nothing would have happened if he hadn't been bold enough to go speak the word and act on it in faith and obedience.
  - The devil will try to make you think you just don't have enough—I certainly had to deal with that.
  - But then I discovered His Word and found out that it was God's Word that produces the fruit (Mark 4:14-20).
  - If the Lord has shown you any truth—spoken anything to you—then you have something that will ignite miracles if you're bold enough to act on that word and speak it!
- VI. The Scripture reveals that this second word concerning Elijah's direction, protection, and provision came *after* he had already been bold and stepped out in faith on the previous word:

*And [then] the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, [3] Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. [4] And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.*

1 KINGS 17:2-4, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION, BRACKETS AND UNDERLINE MINE

- A. Have you ever experienced this in your life?
- B. When people receive a word from God, they usually want the entire picture before they step out.
- C. Elijah didn't know that the Lord was going to make supernatural provision for him before he stepped out in faith on the word he had.
- D. You need to act on the word you have, before you get another one.
- E. You need enthusiasm and zeal, but it should be tempered with wisdom and knowledge.
- F. If you aren't careful, you will get to a place where you won't do anything until God has already planned it out, shown you the end result, and accounted for everything that could possibly happen.

VII. He just shows you one step at a time because He loves you so much.

- A. You might prefer to get it all at one time, but it doesn't take any faith that way.
- B. The Lord wants you to be totally dependent on Him.
- C. Only after you act on the first step does He give you the next instructions.
- D. Are you acting on the word you already have from the Lord?

# Discipleship Questions

1. Elijah \_\_\_\_\_ on the scene.
2. True or false: Elijah didn't approach King Ahab because of his political clout.
3. Though Elijah put his life at risk by coming to Ahab, how did he get the boldness to approach him anyway?
4. Read Hebrews 4:12 and Jeremiah 23:29. According to these verses, what are two things God's Word is like?
  - A. A flood that fills the whole earth
  - B. A fire that devours anything in its path
  - C. A hammer that breaks into pieces everything that opposes it
  - D. B. and C.
  - E. A. and C.
5. *Discussion question:* Why is a person who has a word from God superior to those who don't have a word from God?
6. Who has a word from the Lord?
7. If you don't realize what you have in God's Word and aren't acting on it, you haven't what?
8. If you have revelation of God's Word, you need to be as \_\_\_\_\_ as Elijah was.
9. True or false: According to 1 Kings 18:10, King Ahab searched nearly every nation for Elijah.

10. What set Elijah's ministry in motion?
    - A. His stubbornness to go straight to the very top and speak forth the word
    - B. His anger to go straight to the very top and speak forth the word
    - C. His arrogance to go straight to the very top and spell the word
    - D. His eagerness to go straight to the very top and sing the word
    - E. His boldness to go straight to the very top and speak forth the word
  
  11. What do you have to do to make a difference?
  
  
  12. Who will try to make you think you just don't have enough?
    - A. Your boss
    - B. A well-meaning Christian
    - C. The devil
    - D. All of the above
    - E. None of the above
  
  
  13. Read Mark 4:14-20. What did Andrew discover that helped him counter the devil?
  
  
  14. If the Lord has shown you any truth—spoken anything to you—then what do you have?
  
  
  15. True or false: The second word concerning Elijah's direction, protection, and provision came *before* he had already been bold and stepped out in faith on the previous word.
  
  
  16. You need to \_\_\_\_\_ on the word you have, before you get another one.
  
  
  17. What do enthusiasm and zeal need to be tempered with?
    - A. Wisdom and knowledge
    - B. A healthy diet
    - C. Counsel from your financial advisor
    - D. Fasting and tithing
    - E. Hobbies and recreation
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18. *Discussion question:* What does it take for you to act on what God has told you?

19. Why does God show you one step at a time?

20. True or false: Getting everything all at once doesn't take any faith.

# Scriptures

## 1 KINGS 17:1

*And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.*

## 1 KINGS 18:13

*Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the Lord, how I hid an hundred men of the Lord's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?*

## 1 KINGS 18:19

*Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.*

## JEREMIAH 5:14

*Wherefore thus saith the Lord God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.*

## JEREMIAH 20:9

*Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.*

## HEBREWS 4:12

*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

## JEREMIAH 23:29

*Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?*

## ROMANS 10:17

*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

**1 PETER 1:23**

*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

**PROVERBS 29:25**

*The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.*

**1 KINGS 18:10**

*As the Lord thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not.*

**JEREMIAH 1:6**

*Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.*

**MARK 4:14-20**

*The sower soweth the word. [15] And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. [16] And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; [17] And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. [18] And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, [19] And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. [20] And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.*

**1 KINGS 17:2-4 (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)**

*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."*

**1 KINGS 17:14-23**

*For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. [15] And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. [16] And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah. [17] And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. [18] And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son? [19] And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. [20] And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? [21] And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. [22] And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. [23] And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.*

**1 KINGS 18:37-39**

*Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. [38] Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. [39] And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.*

**MATTHEW 6:11**

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

## Outline

- I. Further direction came to Elijah after he stepped out in faith and acted on the initial word he had been given:

*And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, [3] Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. [4] And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.*

1 KINGS 17:2-4, UNDERLINE MINE

- A. God hid, protected, and provided for him during this period of time.
  - B. Notice where the Lord sent this provision: “*I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there*” (1 Kin. 17:4, underline mine).
  - C. God made provision for Elijah, but it was sent “there”—where the Lord told him to go.
- II. Whenever God tells you to do something, He always makes full provision for you.
- A. Yet I’ve seen people who have stepped out on a word from God, and instead of seeing the provision, they suffered many problems instead, which makes you wonder, *What happened to these folks? Was God faithful?*
  - B. God sent the supply to where He told Elijah to go—not to where he was.
  - C. Yet, if he had stayed right where he was, then as far as Elijah was concerned, he could have starved to death, wondering, *God, where are You? I stepped out on Your word, but where’s Your supply?*
  - D. If you don’t follow through on what God has told you to do, you can miss His supply.
  - E. You have to be in the right place to receive.
- III. When Jamie and I first started out in ministry, we were told, “If you’re called to be a minister, then you’re sinning against God if you get a job!”
- A. Due to this misconception, I did many things wrong, which hindered our finances and our ability to receive God’s provision.
  - B. I had to constantly battle thoughts like: *God, it’s not working. You aren’t faithful. I’m doing what You told me to do, but where’s the supply?*
  - C. Later, the Lord showed me that it’s proportional.

*Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.*

1 CORINTHIANS 9:14

- D. When you are ministering full time, you can expect to live off the Gospel full time.
  - E. In the meantime, it's wisdom to do something else to help support yourself and your family.
  - F. It took me years to get this through my thick skull!
  - G. I had a pure heart, but I refused to receive God's provision, because I thought I would be sinning against my calling if I got a job.
- IV. Elijah knew he was in the right place when he saw the provision of bread and flesh, because God had already sent the provision.

*So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD.*

1 KINGS 17:5

- A. Obedience matters!
  - B. Obedience doesn't change God's heart toward you, but if you aren't obedient, you can certainly make it hard on yourself.
  - C. There is an anointing on just being obedient to God and doing what He says.
- V. After struggling for most of the first ten years of our ministry, we finally began to see a small measure of success in the second place I pastored, Childress, Texas.
- A. But the Lord had spoken to me to go to Pritchett, Colorado, to pastor a small church.
  - B. So, we went there out of nothing but sheer obedience, not expecting anything in return, but that's where our ministry exploded.
  - C. Nobody in their right mind would have ever thought that Pritchett was "there" for anyone, but that's what God told me to do!
  - D. I believe God has something like that in everyone's life.
- VI. You can look at all the major characters in the Bible and see that God has asked just about every single one of them to do something completely illogical.
- A. The Lord asked Abraham to sacrifice his son.
    - i. It looked like he was killing the promise, but that was "there" for him.
  - B. You can probably think of something the Lord has asked you to do like that.
  - C. It's just how He operates!
  - D. If you're missing out on His supernatural supply, it's because you aren't "there"; i.e., you aren't doing what you know in your heart God has called you to do.
  - E. Even by stepping out, taking a risk, throwing caution to the wind, and doing everything God tells you to do, it will still often take a great miracle to see something happen.

- F. But if you aren't even doing what you know in your heart God has called you to do, then you don't stand a chance to succeed.
- G. The Lord might do a few things to test you, but He'll never do anything to hurt you.
- H. If you're not "there," why not?
- I. Do what the Lord tells you to do.

### ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY:

My teachings entitled *Blessings & Miracles* and *Financial Stewardship* will help you understand how to receive God's abundant supply and avoid making these same mistakes that I made.

## Discipleship Questions

1. When did further direction come to Elijah?
2. *Discussion question:* Why do you think God sent Elijah's provision to where he wasn't?
3. Whenever God tells you to do something, He always makes \_\_\_\_\_ provision for you.
4. True or false: You have to follow through on what God has told you, or you'll miss His supply even if you've stepped out on God's Word.
5. Read 1 Corinthians 9:14. What is proportional? Give an example.
6. To do something else to help support yourself and your family in the meantime is what?
  - A. Unbelief
  - B. Foolish
  - C. Popular
  - D. Boring
  - E. Wisdom
7. True or false: Andrew knew he was refusing God's provision.

8. How did Elijah know he was in the right place?
  - A. He saw the provision of bread and flesh
  - B. He was too tired to continue
  - C. There was a mark in the dirt
  - D. He had been there before
  - E. He followed the map correctly
  
9. *Discussion question:* When is obeying God not legalism?
  
10. True or false: If you are obedient, you make it hard on yourself.
  
11. There is an \_\_\_\_\_ on just being obedient to God and doing what He says.
  
12. *Discussion question:* Why do you think God would call a person to a place that looks His provision isn't there?
  
13. True or false: God has asked just about every single major character of the Bible to do something completely illogical.
  
14. When God asks you to do something, why shouldn't you go by what it looks like?
  - A. Because God doesn't want you to use your eyes
  - B. Because you won't like what you see
  - C. Because you will be punished if you do
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above

15. What is another way of saying a person isn't "there"?
  
16. Even by stepping out, taking a risk, throwing caution to the wind, and doing everything God tells you to do, it will still often take a great \_\_\_\_\_ to see something happen.
  
17. True or false: The Lord might do a few things to test you, but He'll never do anything to hurt you.
  
18. *Discussion question:* If you're not "there," why not?

# Scriptures

## 1 KINGS 17:2-5

*And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, [3] Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. [4] And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. [5] So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.*

## 1 CORINTHIANS 9:14

*Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.*

## Outline

- I. Your place called “there” is an attitude of wholeheartedly moving in the direction of, and doing, what God has said for you to do.

*So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. [6] And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.*

1 KINGS 17:5-6

- A. When God calls you to do something, His supply is both supernatural and natural.
- B. You need to keep these things in balance.
- i. You can be in a ditch by always looking for your needs to be met in a totally natural, human way.
  - ii. The other ditch is just expecting God to rain your supply out of heaven while refusing to do anything according to natural wisdom.
- II. Sometimes people have trouble understanding this interaction between the natural and the supernatural.
- A. At one point in time, the board of Andrew Wommack Ministries told me we were bankrupt on paper.
- B. But that same day, an offering came in from a church for \$60,000!
- C. It was definitely God, but it wasn't totally supernatural.
- D. I had spoken a word to the fellow who started that church, and he had wanted to bless me back.
- E. Therefore, this timely provision from God was both natural and supernatural.
- III. One of my partners is a big giver, but he's always on my case, saying, “If you have a need, don't put out a letter or tell anybody; just pray to God, and He will supernaturally meet your need.”
- A. That sounds great, but the Word says,

*Ye have not, because ye ask not.*

JAMES 4:2b

- B. It's wrong to just expect God's provision to be one hundred percent supernatural.
- C. However, it's also wrong to just get out there and try to figure it all out in the physical realm.

- D. God will tell you natural things to do, but there will also be a supernatural supply.
  - E. Elijah had supernatural bread and meat, but he also had natural water.
- IV. At another time, a partner brought his accountant into our ministry to look things over.
- A. This accountant said, “On paper, you’re bankrupt, yet you’re still functioning and things are working.”
  - B. Then, after a more thorough check, he told us to bleed our inventory down to bare bones.
  - C. Since then, we haven’t had a financial crisis in our ministry.
  - D. That was just natural wisdom.
  - E. We all need the supernatural power of God, but there are also some natural things that we have to do.

## Discipleship Questions

1. *Discussion question:* How did you identify that your place called “there” is an attitude of wholeheartedly moving in the direction of, and doing, what God has said for you to do?
  
2. When God calls you to do something, His supply is \_\_\_\_\_ supernatural \_\_\_\_\_ natural.
  - A. Never / always
  - B. Always / never
  - C. Both / and
  - D. Seemingly / and
  - E. Neither / nor
  
3. The supernatural and natural need to be in what?
  
4. *Discussion question:* Why do you think people have trouble understanding this interaction between the natural and the supernatural?
  
5. According to James 4:2, in order to have, what do you need to do?
  - A. Beg
  - B. Manipulate
  - C. Fast
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above

6. What part of God's supply to Elijah was supernatural?
  
7. What part of God's supply to Elijah was natural?
  
8. *Discussion question:* How do you know which is which?
  
9. *Discussion question:* Why do you need natural things along with the supernatural power of God?

# Scriptures

## 1 KINGS 17:5-6

*So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. [6] And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.*

## JAMES 4:2

*Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.*

## EXODUS 25:1-7

*And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, [2] Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering. [3] And this is the offering which ye shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass, [4] And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, [5] And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood, [6] Oil for the light, spices for anointing oil, and for sweet incense, [7] Onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod, and in the breastplate.*

## Outline

- I. Just because God gave you a word, you obeyed it, and He supernaturally provided for you—doesn't mean it won't change!

*And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.*

1 KINGS 17:7

- A. There are progressive steps toward the fulfillment of anything God has for you to do.
  - B. The Christian life is a relationship—it's dynamic and progressive.
  - C. At times, God is going to change some things in your life.
  - D. Will you go on to the new "there" or get stuck?
- II. Elijah had received, proclaimed, and obeyed the word of the Lord—the brook didn't dry up because he had done anything wrong.
- A. You might think you will never have any problems if you just do what God tells you to do, but this just isn't so!
  - B. The vast majority of believers functionally interpret whether or not they're doing what the Lord wants them to do by how easy it is.
    - i. If something comes against them, they think they've missed God.
  - C. God's blessing and anointing will be on your life when you're really obeying Him, but that doesn't mean that everything in the physical realm will be going right.
  - D. In fact, you can usually tell whether or not God is in what you're doing by how much opposition there is.
  - E. That's about the way it goes in Scripture.
- III. Elijah was in that place called "there," but the brook dried up.
- A. It was his own prophecy that brought the drought.
  - B. But to Elijah's credit, he didn't move just because the brook dried up.
  - C. In a situation like this, when the supply has quit and something has to change, most people wouldn't wait on a word from God, and they would do something out of panic.
  - D. But in truth, you don't ever have to do anything contrary to what the Lord has told you to do.
  - E. If God gave you a word, then the thing to do is to keep doing what the Lord told you to do until you get a new word.

- F. You can always do that!
- G. Your biggest problem will be your own thoughts.

IV. Apparently Elijah was so committed to the fact that the Lord had told him to be there at the Brook Cherith that he wasn't going to move until he heard from God again.

*And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, [9] Arise get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there; behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.*

1 KINGS 17:8-9, UNDERLINE MINE

- A. God changed Elijah's "there," the place of provision.
- B. There is growth and steps you have to take to find and fulfill God's will.
- C. Don't let what you don't know keep you from doing what you know to do.
- D. As you take that first step, the Lord will be faithful to show you the following steps.
- E. That's my testimony and that's what the Lord did for Elijah.

## Discipleship Questions

1. Read 1 Kings 17:7. It's possible that if God gives you a word, you obeyed it, and He supernaturally provided for you, it will \_\_\_\_\_!
2. What is the Christian life?
  - A. A relationship
  - B. Dynamic
  - C. Progressive
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
3. True or false: God is constantly changing your place called "there."
4. True or false: You will never have any problems if you just do what God tells you to do.
5. *Discussion question:* Why shouldn't you interpret whether or not you're doing what the Lord wants you to do by how easy it is?
6. You can \_\_\_\_\_ tell whether or not God is in what you're doing by how much opposition there is.
7. It was Elijah's \_\_\_\_\_ prophecy that brought the drought.

8. *Discussion question:* Why do you think people don't wait on a word from God panic when the supply has quit?
9. You don't ever have to do anything \_\_\_\_\_ to what the Lord has told you to do.
10. If God gave you a word, what should you do if you haven't gotten a new word?
- A. Nothing
  - B. Plan B
  - C. What He told you to do
  - D. Cry
  - E. What makes sense to you
11. You can \_\_\_\_\_ do that!
12. What will be your biggest problem?
13. True or false: Elijah was so committed to the fact that the Lord had told him to be there at the Brook Cherith that he wasn't going to move until he heard from God again.
14. Read 1 Kings 17:8-9. What did God change?
- A. Elijah's "there"
  - B. The place of provision
  - C. His behavior toward Elijah
  - D. A. and C.
  - E. A. and B.

15. True or false: Without growth and taking steps, you will not find and fulfill God's will.
16. *Discussion question:* Why shouldn't you let what you don't know keep you from doing what you know to do?
17. What will happen as you take the first step?
- A. The Lord might show you the following steps
  - B. The Lord will be faithful to show you the following steps
  - C. The Lord will begrudgingly show you the following steps
  - D. The Lord will have to show you the following steps
  - E. The Lord will be faithful to show you all the following steps

# Scriptures

## 1 KINGS 17:7-9

*And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. [8] And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, [9] Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.*

## MARK 4:28

*For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.*

## ACTS 16:9-10

*And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. [10] And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.*

## ACTS 16:22-24

*And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. [23] And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: [24] Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.*

## GENESIS 39:2

*And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.*

## ACTS 7:9

*And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him.*

## EXODUS 17:6

*Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.*

## JUDGES 15:15-19

*And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith. [16] And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men. [17] And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking, that he cast away the jawbone out of his hand, and called that place Ramathlehi. [18] And he was sore athirst, and called on the Lord, and said, Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised? [19] But God clave an hollow place that was in the jaw, and there came water thereout; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived: wherefore he called the name thereof Enhakkore, which is in Lehi unto this day.*

## Outline

### I. God led Elijah to a new place:

*Behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.*

1 KINGS 17:9

- A. The Lord had already spoken to this widow before He told Elijah about her, which was exactly the same thing He did with the ravens (1 Kin. 17:4).
- B. God sent Elijah to a *specific* woman—Jesus Himself said,

*But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias [Elijah], when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; [26] But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta [Zarephath], a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.*

LUKE 4:25-26, BRACKETS MINE

- C. Perhaps she had heard about Elijah’s prophecy and knew that this drought had been caused by the man of God.
- D. She could have been believing the Lord to send Elijah her way, because she knew she was supposed to sustain him.
- E. It’s also possible that God had just shown her that somehow or another He was going to miraculously provide for her through the drought.

### II. Elijah knew this wasn’t just any woman but “the” woman:

*So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman...*

1 KINGS 17:10a, UNDERLINE MINE

- A. God had a place called “there” for the widow woman, too, and that’s where she was!

*The widow woman was there gathering of sticks.*

1 KINGS 17:10b, UNDERLINE MINE

- B. This woman wasn’t out there praying, laying hands on the sick, or doing anything “holy”; she was just picking up sticks.

- C. This may not seem very significant, but she was “there”— doing what she knew to do, which put her in the right place at the right time.
- D. You might want to do all these super spiritual things, yet sometimes you’ll encounter some of the most awesome miracles just doing the things God has called us to do.
- E. If you aren’t living the Christian life in everyday things, you could miss out on your miracle because you are too “spiritual!”
- F. God has called you to do a lot of things that aren’t necessarily super spiritual.
- G. Sometimes you might look down on those things and not do them with as much joy as all the spiritual stuff.
- H. Be faithful to do what God has called you to do; remember, this woman was “there,” picking up sticks.

III. If you were getting ready to make your last little bit of food and then die, and somebody came to you and asked for a drink of water—would you give it to them?

*And he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. [11] And as she was going to fetch it...*

1 KINGS 17:10-11a

- A. For this woman to go and actually serve Elijah first says a lot about her.
- B. I believe that’s one of the reasons God chose her over everyone else.
- C. She was a giver.
- D. She was someone who didn’t just think only of herself.
- E. Many of us aren’t willing to serve anybody on a good day, much less a bad one.

IV. Remember, Elijah knew this was “*the*” woman.

*He called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.*

1 KINGS 17:11b

- A. He wasn’t just asking this randomly to check her out; he was doing this on purpose.
- B. This was a divine connection, and she already had a word from God, but I believe she was wavering in her faith a little bit:

*And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.*

1 KINGS 17:12

- C. She was believing Him for supernatural supply, but not strong enough to speak it.
  - D. This is exactly the reason God led Elijah to ask for her last little bit of food: She needed to take a step of faith and get beyond that doubt and unbelief.
  - E. You'll find this truth also in the ministry of Jesus.
    - i. When someone was pointed out to Jesus, He told them to go do something.
    - ii. If you study this out, you will find that the people who didn't make a step toward Him were given something to do.
    - iii. To those who took steps toward Him, He said things like, "*According to your faith be it unto you*" (Matt. 9:29).
- V. Elijah knew he had the widow woman's miracle, but if he didn't become aggressive and get her out of her negative attitude, she was going to miss God's provision.
- A. Most of us would feel sympathy for that woman, and instead of taking her last little bit, we would shell out and give to her.
  - B. However, giving her some food might feed her one more day, but taking from her what she had would give her a supply that would last nearly three years!
  - C. Many times, our compassion is misdirected.
  - D. People don't need a hand out but a hand up.
  - E. Elijah was saving this widow woman's life by asking for her last little bit of food.
- VI. As ministers, we need to challenge God's people to give and then receive their offerings with the right attitude—it's one of the best things we can do for them!
- A. Ministers, myself included, haven't been bold in the area of finances because we don't want to be perceived as being after people's money.
  - B. We have let the devil intimidate us into thinking we are receiving the offering for us, when in reality, we're receiving it for them!
  - C. When we minister on finances and become bashful and apologetic, we'll lose the anointing and power of finances.
  - D. As ministers, it's our responsibility to challenge believers to step out in faith.
  - E. We need to push them to get out there and do what God has called them to do!

## Discipleship Questions

1. Read 1 Kings 17:9. “Behold, I have commanded a widow woman \_\_\_\_\_ to sustain thee.”
2. Read Luke 4:25-26. True or false: God sent Elijah to a random woman.
3. How do you think Elijah knew this woman was “the” woman?
4. God had a place called “there” for the widow woman \_\_\_\_\_.
5. True or false: If you’re in your place called “there,” you’ll always be doing super spiritual things.
6. If you aren’t living the Christian life in everyday things, what could you miss out on?
  - A. Something fun
  - B. Your TV time
  - C. A candy bar
  - D. The next new thing
  - E. Your miracle
7. You need to be faithful to do what?

8. *Discussion question:* If you were getting ready to make your last little bit of food and then die, and somebody came to you and asked for a drink of water—why or why not would you give it to them?
  
9. True or false: This woman was someone who didn't just think only of herself.
  
10. Read 1 Kings 17:11-12. Why did Elijah ask for this widow's last bit of food?
  - A. Because he had only been eating meat that the ravens brought him and longed for bread
  - B. Because he was famished—why else!?
  - C. Because she needed to take a step of faith and get beyond that doubt and unbelief
  - D. Because he didn't care about her
  - E. Because he knew she was lying about it being her last bit
  
11. What did Jesus do when someone was pointed out to Him?
  
12. Read Matthew 9:29. What about those who took steps toward Him?
  
13. *Discussion question:* Why do ministers need to do the same thing when they receive offerings and encourage people to give?
  
14. What did Elijah have to do to get the widow woman out of her negative attitude?

15. What would have happened if he hadn't?
16. Many times, what do people need instead of a hand out?
- A. A kind word
  - B. A hand up
  - C. A reality check
  - D. A place to stay
  - E. A harsh rebuke
17. True or false: Ministers, Andrew included, haven't been bold in the area of finances because they want to be perceived as being after people's money.
18. In reality, who are ministers receiving offerings for?
- A. The people
  - B. The guest minister
  - C. Themselves
  - D. Whomever the pastor chooses
  - E. No one
19. Why shouldn't those who minister on finances be bashful and apologetic?
20. *Discussion question:* Why is it ministers' responsibility to challenge believers to step out in faith?

# Scriptures

## 1 KINGS 17:9-12

Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. [10] So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. [11] And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. [12] And she said, As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

## 1 KINGS 17:4

And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

## LUKE 4:25-26

But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; [26] But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.

## GENESIS 18:1

And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day.

## GENESIS 28:11-16

And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. [12] And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. [13] And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; [14] And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. [15] And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. [16] And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not.

**EXODUS 3:1-2**

*Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. [2] And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.*

**JUDGES 6:11**

*And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.*

**1 SAMUEL 9:2-4**

*And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people. [3] And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses. [4] And he passed through mount Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalisha, but they found them not: then they passed through the land of Shalim, and there they were not: and he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they found them not.*

**1 SAMUEL 16:11**

*And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.*

**HEBREWS 13:2**

*Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*

**MARK 10:47**

*And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me.*

**MARK 10:52**

*And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.*

**MATTHEW 9:29**

*Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.*

## MARK 5:25-34

*And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, [26] And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, [27] When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. [28] For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. [29] And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. [30] And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? [31] And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? [32] And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. [33] But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. [34] And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.*

## Outline

- I. The Word says that Elijah didn't just tell this widow woman "Give me your food"; he gave her a promise, or a word from God, to go with it:

*And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. [14] For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.*

1 KINGS 17:13-14

- A. Elijah gave her the word of God—the same word he had been living under and that had been meeting his need.
  - B. You don't encourage people to give without giving them the Word of God to anchor their faith.
- II. Notice how Elijah said, "*Make me thereof a little cake first*" (1 Kin. 17:13, underline mine).
- A. You need to challenge folks to give God their best, because they want to give what they can afford—what's left over after their needs are taken care of.
  - B. They aren't putting the Lord and His kingdom first (Matt. 6:33).
  - C. I'm not legalistic with this, but when you give God your best, He begins to give you His best.
- III. This widow woman had to give to Elijah first every day until the drought ended.
- A. She didn't give to Elijah once and get three years' supply of oil and meal.
  - B. There was always that tiny little bit, but it never failed!
  - C. There was never so much that she could just coast and say, "Well, I don't have to believe God today."
  - D. Every morning, she faced this choice—make for the man of God first and believe that there will be enough for her and her son, or not.
  - E. She had to exercise her faith every day to obey the word of the Lord.
  - F. Most of us would like to get enough to set two or three years' worth aside, so we can feel safe and secure.
  - G. But the Bible says,

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

MATTHEW 6:11

- H. This is how the Lord met her need.
- I. What a tremendous lesson!
- J. You don't have to experience everything on your own; you can learn from the examples recorded in God's Word.

IV. This woman's giving not only affected her but also her son who died later in this chapter (1 Kin. 17:17-23).

- A. She had been giving, so she had a right to make a demand on Elijah to raise up her son.
- B. There was no precedent for this, nothing to encourage Elijah, yet he went in and raised this woman's son from the dead.
- C. This was a result of the faith she demonstrated through her giving.

V. Faithful giving won't just open a door for you in your finances; it will open a door for you in many other areas of your life and ministry.

*He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. [11] If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon [money], who will commit to your trust the true riches?*

**LUKE 16:10-11, BRACKETS MINE**

- A. Jesus called money the "least" area of stewardship.
- B. If you can't trust God in finances, you're not operating in enough faith to really trust Him in healing, deliverance, and other things either.
- C. If you can't trust God with your money, how are you ever going to trust Him with your eternal salvation, health, family, church, ministry, or anything else?
- D. Faithfulness in finances is the starting place.

VI. Everyone in the body of Christ is at varying stages of growth, ministry, and God working in their lives.

- A. However, the Lord's thoughts and plans for each of us are "thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end" (Jer. 29:11).
- B. The Lord has destined us for success!
- C. Success with God isn't the same as worldly success.
- D. We need to be careful how you evaluate success.
- E. It's not just dependent on numbers, finances, and other such things.

VII. God wills for every one of us to succeed in whatever area He's planted us in.

- A. There's a perfect plan, but there are some things we need to go and do.
- B. We need to be faithful and take those steps, just like the widow of Zarephath.
- C. We can't receive God's provision if we won't step out in faith and do what He tells us to do.
- D. Many times we struggle because we aren't "there."
- E. We have a word from God—it's time we stepped out in faith!

#### ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY:

For additional insights on this important principle, please refer to my teaching entitled "The Least of These."

## Discipleship Questions

1. Read 1 Kings 17:13-14. What did Elijah do after he told the widow woman to give him her food?
  - A. He sent her away
  - B. He gave her a word from God
  - C. He told her to take her concerns to God
  - D. He offered to do handiwork around the house
  - E. He marveled that she went and did it
2. Elijah only gave her what he had been \_\_\_\_\_ under himself.
3. If you don't give people the Word of God to anchor their faith, you shouldn't encourage them to what?
  - A. Clap
  - B. Trust you
  - C. Give
  - D. Care
  - E. Stay
4. *Discussion question:* Why does God give you His best when you give your best?
5. True or false: This woman gave to Elijah once and received three years' supply of oil and meal.
6. True or false: This woman had to give to Elijah first every day to have enough for herself and her son.

7. It was an exercise of her \_\_\_\_\_.
  
8. *Discussion question:* How have examples recorded in God's Word helped you?
  
9. This widow woman's son was raised from the dead as a result of what?
  
10. Read Luke 16:10-11. What is the least area of stewardship?
  - A. Money
  - B. Bible reading
  - C. Cleanliness
  - D. Prayer
  - E. Church attendance
  
11. If you can't trust God with your money, how are you ever going to trust Him with your eternal salvation, health, family, church, ministry, or anything else?
  
12. Faithfulness in finances is the \_\_\_\_\_ place.
  
13. Read Jeremiah 29:11. What has God destined you for?
  
14. *Discussion question:* How do you evaluate success?

15. True or false: God wills for every one of us to succeed in whatever area He's planted us in.

16. You have a word from God, so it's time to step out in what?

- A. Pride
- B. Power
- C. Giving
- D. Faith
- E. Caution

# Scriptures

## 1 KINGS 17:13-15

*And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. [14] For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth. [15] And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.*

## MATTHEW 6:33

*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

## MATTHEW 6:11

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

## 1 KINGS 17:17-23

*And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. [18] And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son? [19] And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. [20] And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? [21] And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. [22] And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. [23] And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.*

## LUKE 16:10-11

*He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. [11] If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?*

## JEREMIAH 29:11

*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

## *Outline*

- I. The truth is that most of us never stretch ourselves out in faith; therefore, we don't need God to do anything.
  - A. We don't ever go out and lay hands on somebody to be healed, because we're afraid it won't work, but if we don't lay hands on them, nothing will happen for sure!
  - B. Most of us have never allowed ourselves to get in a position where we need a supernatural manifestation of the power of God—we play it too safe.
  - C. The fruit is out on the limb, but we're all hugging the trunk.
  - D. We need to get out there where it feels a little insecure.
  - E. Until we get to where we're doing something beyond our ability, there's no reason for God to show up and do a miracle.
  - F. God will always cause us to do the thing that seems impossible.
  - G. The Lord will lead us to do something strange, uncomfortable, and different.
  
- II. We have a word from God, but we've been timid and shy about it.
  - A. We need to have the same kind of attitude as Elijah—not arrogance, but confidence, knowing what God has done in our lives.
  - B. There's a fine line between godly confidence and arrogance.
  - C. The greatest step of humility is to actually get beyond the fear of man and declare to people, "I'm your answer. I have a word from God for you!"
  
- III. Some people could misuse what I'm sharing, but I believe that you are someone who is seeking first God's kingdom.
  - A. You don't minister to others for selfish reasons or to promote yourself.
  - B. You genuinely love God and want to see other people blessed.
  - C. The word God has given is what gives you authority and power—not the recognition of people, your theological training, etc.
  - D. Elijah just spoke the word of God and let it have its work—that's what you're called to do.
  - E. God is the one who brings it to pass.
  
- IV. There was one time that this woman got right up in my face and declared, "You have a revelation of grace that would set every person in a mental institution free if they could hear it. You need to be preaching grace!"

- A. God spoke to me through her.
  - B. I realized that I hadn't fully esteemed and valued what God had given me to the degree that I should have.
  - C. Although I had been preaching grace, I saw that this woman believed the word I was preaching even more than I did—and I got convicted!
- V. You need to go back and reevaluate some things.
- A. You need to believe the Word of God and do something with it.
  - B. You have a message that would change millions of people—appreciate what you have.
  - C. Don't let the devil talk you out of it.
  - D. Stand on, act on, and confidently proclaim the Word of God in your heart.
  - E. Go out on the limb—that's where the fruit is!

## Discipleship Questions

1. If you don't ever stretch yourself out in faith, you don't need God to do \_\_\_\_\_.
  
2. If you don't go lay hands on somebody to be healed, what will happen for sure?
  - A. They'll be healed
  - B. God's will
  - C. A miracle
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
  
3. True or false: Until we get to where you're doing something beyond our ability, there's no reason for God to show up and do a miracle.
  
4. *Discussion question:* What happened in your life when you took a step of confidence and humility?
  
5. What gives you authority and power?
  - A. Your theological training
  - B. The word God has given
  - C. The recognition of people
  - D. Your status
  - E. The bank balance

6. Who is the one who brings the spoken word to pass?
  - A. Elijah
  - B. You
  - C. Others
  - D. God
  - E. The widow woman
  
7. Andrew got convicted that he hadn't fully what?
  
8. *Discussion question:* What happened when you esteemed and valued what God has given you?
  
9. Who needs to believe the Word of God and do something with it?
  
10. You have a message that would change \_\_\_\_\_ of people.
  
11. Who's going to try to talk you out of it?
  - A. Your parents
  - B. The devil
  - C. An angel
  - D. A friend
  - E. Your boss
  
12. True or false: You have to go out on the limb if you want the fruit.

# Scriptures

LUKE 6:38

*Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*

## Outline

- I. Elijah didn't do anything for three years until the word of the Lord came to him.
  - A. It's amazing how impatient we can become when we don't hear anything new from God.
  - B. Many times, we just go out and do things on our own.
  - C. The Lord might have given us a promise and it doesn't seem like it's coming to pass, so we try to help Him out in the flesh.
  - D. Elijah didn't do that—he chose to stay in tune with God and lived his life at the word of the Lord.
  
- II. Jesus said “*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me*” (John 10:27) and “*A stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers*” (John 10:5).
  - A. This is not the experience of many Christians.
  - B. They complain about not being able to hear the voice of God, but then they'll turn around in the next breath and say, “The devil told me I'm never going to hear God's voice. Satan says this and Satan says that.”
  - C. We need to tune in and start listening to God's voice!
  - D. Most of the time, we don't hear what God is saying to us because we aren't inclining our ears and paying attention.
  
- III. We don't draw on the word of the Lord enough—it's available, but we have to appropriate it!
  - A. Elijah didn't do anything until he heard a word from God.
  - B. Many of the problems we get into today are totally self-created.
  - C. We blame the devil, and of course, the Enemy takes advantage of everything we give him, but we can save ourselves a lot of problems by just getting to the place where we hear the voice of the Lord.
  
- IV. When the word of the Lord came to Elijah and said “Go show yourself to Ahab,” that's what he did.

*And Elijah went to show himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria. [3] And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly: [4] For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.) [5] And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts.*

1 KINGS 18:2-5

- A. This famine had been so severe that it looked like they were going to start losing their livestock.

*And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?*

1 KINGS 18:17

- B. Ahab tried to make Elijah responsible for all of his problems, but notice Elijah's response:

*And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.*

1 KINGS 18:18

- C. Satan is an intimidator, an accuser who, sooner or later, will twist things around so that you're the problem.
- D. You can see this big time in society today.
- E. Because of his intimidation, most Christians are afraid to speak the truth and act on the word God has given them.
- F. This was exactly what Ahab was trying to do to the prophet, but Elijah answered, "I haven't troubled Israel. It's you and your house who have brought all this upon yourselves!"
- i. The same thing happened with Jesus when they brought a demonized boy to Him.
  - ii. The father said put the ball entirely in Jesus' court (Mark 9:22).
  - iii. But the Lord wasn't going to accept responsibility that wasn't His.
  - iv. He knew this boy's father could believe God, so He turned it back onto him (Mark 9:23).
- G. The devil will constantly try to put all of the burden and responsibility on you.
- H. Elijah just refused to receive it.
- I. He wasn't about to be intimidated by the devil, and neither should you!

## *Discipleship Questions*

1. What happens when people don't hear anything new from God?
  - A. They can become impatient
  - B. They stir and stir but ultimately do nothing
  - C. They can go out and do things on their own
  - D. A. and B.
  - E. A. and C.
  
2. What did Elijah do?
  
3. Read John 10:27 and 5. As a Christian, you should be able to \_\_\_\_\_ God's voice.
  
4. What do you need to do to hear God's voice?
  
5. *Discussion question:* When God has spoken to you, how did you know it was Him?
  
6. *Discussion question:* What do you do when you get a word from the Lord?
  
7. True or false: Everything that happens to you is the devil's fault.

8. Elijah obeyed the word of the Lord, but Ahab still tried to make him \_\_\_\_\_ for his problems.
  
9. *Discussion question:* How would you respond in this situation?
  
10. Who tries to intimidate and accuse you?
  
11. Read Mark 9:22-23. What did Jesus do when the father wanted to make Jesus responsible for healing his demonized son?
  - A. Jesus refused to heal his son
  - B. Jesus accepted the responsibility
  - C. Jesus put the responsibility back onto him
  - D. Jesus asked God if it was His will to heal him
  - E. Jesus asked him for an offering
  
12. *Discussion question:* What is your plan to not be intimidated by the devil?

# Scriptures

## 1 KINGS 18:1-18

And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth. [2] And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria. [3] And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly: [4] For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the Lord, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.) [5] And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts. [6] So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself. [7] And as Obadiah was in the way, behold, Elijah met him: and he knew him, and fell on his face, and said, Art thou that my lord Elijah? [8] And he answered him, I am: go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here. [9] And he said, What have I sinned, that thou wouldest deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me? [10] As the Lord thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not. [11] And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here. [12] And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the Lord shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the Lord from my youth. [13] Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the Lord, how I hid an hundred men of the Lord's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water? [14] And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here: and he shall slay me. [15] And Elijah said, As the Lord of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely shew myself unto him to day. [16] So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him: and Ahab went to meet Elijah. [17] And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? [18] And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim.

**1 KINGS 17:1-4**

*And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. [2] And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, [3] Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. [4] And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.*

**1 KINGS 17:8-9**

*And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, [9] Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.*

**JOHN 10:27**

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*

**JOHN 10:5**

*And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.*

**JOHN 16:13**

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

**1 KINGS 19:10**

*And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.*

**ISAIAH 5:20**

*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

**JOHN 8:32**

*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

**MARK 9:22-23**

*And ofttimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. [23] Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.*

## Outline

### I. Elijah just showed up on the scene, and the word from God put him in control.

*Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table. [20] So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel.*

1 KINGS 18:19-20

- A. At first, nobody knew who he was.
- B. But since Elijah was bold enough to speak the word the Lord had given him—even when nothing at the time was happening—it gave him credibility when things came to pass.
- C. If you stick around long enough, you'll see the Word of God put you in a position of authority every single time.
- D. However, you must be truly speaking God's Word—not just your own doctrines and social issues.
- E. Sooner or later, the Word of God will *always* exalt you.

### II. God doesn't actually exalt ministers—He exalts His Word.

- A. We put so much emphasis on our actions and charisma, but if we look at the people God has used throughout history, many of them had nothing going for them.
- B. All they had was the word of the Lord and genuine faith in it.
- C. Speaking specifically of the Jews who had rejected the Gospel, Hebrews 4:2 says,

*The word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.*

- D. We need to mix the Word we've heard with faith.
- E. If we speak the word God has put in our mouths, it will give us authority in the lives of people.

### III. The word of the Lord in Elijah's mouth had been proven—it came to pass.

*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God.*

1 PETER 4:11

- A. Elijah, a prophet, told the king what to do, and he did it—that's the way it ought to be.
- B. There was a time when the church commanded an authority in people's lives.
- C. We've become apologetic and substituted other things.
- D. We need to be authoritative with the Word of God.
- E. We don't have to condemn people—we can do it in love, but we must be bold and speak the Word of God.
- F. As ministers, we're supposed to challenge people to make a decision.

*And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.*

1 KINGS 18:21

- G. But many times, we're afraid to do this because they might make a wrong choice and it'll work against us.
- H. People may leave, but we must bring them to a place of commitment.

#### IV. Elijah knew better than this:

*Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.*

1 KINGS 18:22

- A. Remember, he'd just been told that there were still a hundred prophets being hid out in caves (1 Kin. 18:13).
- B. He thought he was the only one left serving God, but the Lord still used him.
- C. We don't have to be perfect for God to use us.
- D. This doesn't mean it's okay to have problems.
- E. But even though these wrong attitudes and mistakes in our lives are deadly and we need to deal with them, the Lord will still use us.
- F. We cut ourselves off—not God!

*They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.*

JONAH 2:8

- G. When we observe lying vanities, we open ourselves up to the devil.

#### V. Elijah called for a test, saying, "Let's see who the real God is!"

*Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: [24] And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.*

1 KINGS 18:23-24

- A. We're the ones who have the power, reality, and anointing of the Lord.
- B. We would silence many people if we just started demonstrating things.
- C. We need to be bold—God is bigger than we've ever thought about, yet we're afraid we're going to say something and promise something that the Lord can't deliver.
- D. It's not really putting the Lord on the spot—it's putting *us* on the spot.
- E. God is willing and able; He's more than capable.
- F. When I pray for people, I am doing nothing but operating as a believer.
- G. It's just a prayer of faith based on God's Word, and I see miracles happen all the time.
- H. Every believer can do this (Mark 16:20).

VI. Paul declared in 1 Corinthians 4:19-20,

*But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power. [20] For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.*

- A. Basically, Paul was saying, "We're going to solve this problem when I come. Those of you who have any power operating in your life can talk. But if you haven't healed any sick, cleansed any lepers, ministered sight to the blind, or raised someone from the dead in the last month or two, then you have to sit down and shut up!"
- B. We need to be more aggressive in our faith.
- C. The people are ready for this; we're the ones playing it safe.
- D. Why? We're afraid to preach it because then we'll have to manifest it.
- E. We're the ones the fear originates from.
- F. On the whole, we are the ones who set the tone in our ministries.
- G. If we aren't seeing the miraculous power of God operate, then we don't have to look for our problem any further than our mirror.

# Discipleship Questions

1. What put Elijah in control?
2. *Discussion question:* Why did Elijah's boldness give him credibility? In what ways have you seen that principle in your life?
3. If you stick around long enough, you'll see the Word of God do what?
  - A. Grow legs and walk around in circles
  - B. Put you in a position of authority every single time
  - C. Justify all your opinions and ideologies
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
4. *Discussion question:* Have you experienced others—or yourself—speaking their own doctrines and social issues? How did/do you handle this?
5. God doesn't actually exalt \_\_\_\_\_—He exalts \_\_\_\_\_.
6. *Discussion question:* Give some examples of people God has used who have had nothing going for them.

7. *Discussion question:* Do you agree with the statement “If we speak the word God has put in our mouths, it will give us authority in the lives of people”? Why or why not?
  
8. True or false: Elijah, a prophet, told the king what to do—but it shouldn’t be that way.
  
9. Do you have to condemn people in order to be authoritative with the Word of God?
  
10. *Discussion question:* What do you think it means to bring people to a place of commitment?
  
11. *Discussion question:* Even though Elijah was in error, thinking he was the only one left serving God, the Lord still used him. In what ways can you apply this to your life?
  
12. You don’t have to be \_\_\_\_\_ for God to use you.
  - A. Right-handed
  - B. American
  - C. Baptist
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
  
13. Who cuts you off from God?

14. *Discussion question:* Why do you think that demonstrating the power, reality, and anointing of the Lord would silence many people?
  
15. True or false: God is willing and able; He's more than capable.
  
16. How does Andrew see miracles happen all the time?
  
17. *Discussion question:* Meditate on 1 Corinthians 4:19-20. What do these verses mean to you?
  
18. On the whole, do you set the tone for your ministry?

# Scriptures

## 1 KINGS 18:19-24

Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table. [20] So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel. [21] And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word. [22] Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. [23] Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: [24] And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

## 1 KINGS 18:10

As the LORD thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not.

## HEBREWS 4:2

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

## 1 PETER 4:11

If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

## 1 KINGS 18:13

Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

## JONAH 2:8

They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.

**MARK 16:20**

*And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

**1 CORINTHIANS 1:12**

*Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.*

**1 CORINTHIANS 4:19-20**

*But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power. [20] For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.*

## Outline

- I. Elijah mocked these people (1 Kin. 18:25-27) because he knew the power of God.
  - A. Most of us honestly just aren't that confident in God's power.
  - B. We don't really doubt that He *can*; we doubt that He *will*.
  - C. Why? Because we know that we aren't everything that we should be.
  - D. We don't have to be perfect for God to use us!
  - E. We let the devil talk us out of our miracles—not because we doubt that God has the power, but because we doubt His willingness to use it.
  - F. Really, we doubt ourselves because we don't understand the grace and mercy of God.
  
- II. Do you know what they were doing by leaping on the altar and cutting themselves?

*And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.*

1 KINGS 18:28

- A. They were offering their works as a sacrifice.
- B. This same attitude operates in many Christians today—they think God will use them because of their great sacrifice and the things they do.
- C. However, it's only by the grace of God!
- D. You need to extract ourselves out of these things.
- E. You need to put all the pressure and responsibility on Him—He can handle it!
- F. That's not what these priests and prophets were doing by yelling, leaping, and cutting themselves—they thought that somehow their works would cause Baal to answer.
- G. And of course, nothing happened.

*And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.*

1 KINGS 18:29

- III. This whole test was supernatural.

*And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. [31] And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of*

*Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: [32] And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. [33] And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. [34] And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. [35] And they did it the third time. And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.*

1 KINGS 18:30-35

- A. There was a bullock and wood, but no fire; however, just so nobody misunderstood and claimed “spontaneous combustion,” Elijah had all this water poured over it.
  - B. Although it was hot and dry because of the drought, only God would be able to set fire to this sacrifice.
  - C. Most people wouldn’t do something like that—they would struggle with their own unbelief.
  - D. But Elijah believed God.
  - E. What has God called you to do? Is there opposition to you and your word from the Lord?
  - F. Don’t be afraid—anyone with a word from God is bigger than all of their opposition.
  - G. If you have faith in the word from God, nothing will shake you.
  - H. If the Lord has called you to do what you’re doing, then it will work.
  - I. The only thing that can stop you is your unbelief.
- IV. Elijah knew this drought was going to last years – “*There shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word*” (1 Kin. 17:1, underline mine).
- A. During this drought, Elijah must have asked the Lord and meditated on how it would end.
  - B. But somehow or another, Elijah had already seen all these things that would happen coming to pass.
  - C. That’s what he was praying here in 1 Kings 18:36:

*And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.*

UNDERLINE MINE

- D. God had planted all these things inside Elijah and instructed him in it.
- E. If you can’t see it on the inside, you’ll never see it on the outside.
- F. Elijah had already seen these things happen—he saw himself challenging the prophets of Baal and knew what the outcome would be.

- G. You need to take God's Word and let it paint a picture.
- H. You need to get to where you can see it!
- I. Elijah had already seen these things in his heart, so he said that he was doing "*all these things at thy word*" (1 Kin. 18:36).

V. Nobody had ever called fire down before.

*Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. [38] Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.*

**1 KINGS 18:37-38**

- A. And it all happened because the word of the Lord came to this guy, and he meditated on it, spoke it boldly, and acted on it in obedience.
- B. The same thing can happen with us.
- C. We need to hear a word from God, get bold with it, and speak it.
- D. We'll go through some hard times.
- E. Elijah went through the drought and suffered like everybody else.
- F. It took faith to get up every day and see that provision, but he believed God—and the fire fell!

## Discipleship Questions

1. Why did Elijah mock the false prophets (1 Kin. 18:25-27)?
  
2. *Discussion question:* Have you ever found yourself doubting not that God *can* but that He *will*? How have you dealt with this?
  
3. True or false: You don't have to be perfect for God to use you!
  
4. What do you do because you don't understand the grace and mercy of God?
  
5. *Discussion question:* In what ways, if any, have you offered your works as a sacrifice to God?
  
6. What happened when the priests and prophets yelled and leaped and cut themselves?
  
7. Why would most people not do something like what Elijah did?
  - A. Because he was an Old Testament prophet
  - B. Because things like that don't need to be done today
  - C. Because they would struggle with their own unbelief
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above

8. *Discussion question:* Why does having a word from God make you bigger than all your opposition?
  
9. True or false: If the Lord has called you to do what you're doing, then it will probably work.
  
10. The only thing that can stop you is your \_\_\_\_\_.
  
11. *Discussion question:* What things has God planted inside you and instructed you in?
  
12. *Discussion question:* Why is taking God's Word and letting it paint a picture inside you so important?
  
13. Why was Elijah able to call fire down from heaven?
  
14. Can the same thing happen with you?
  
15. *Discussion question:* Have you faced hard times because of the word the Lord has given you? How did you handle those situations?

# Scriptures

## 1 KINGS 18:25-38

And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under. [26] And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made. [27] And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked. [28] And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. [29] And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded. [30] And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down. [31] And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the Lord came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: [32] And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. [33] And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. [34] And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. [35] And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water. [36] And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. [37] Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. [38] Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

**MATTHEW 14:28-31**

*And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. [29] And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. [30] But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. [31] And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*

**1 KINGS 17:1**

*And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.*

## Outline

- I. The fire of God doesn't just fall anywhere—Elijah had to repair the altar (1 Kin. 18:30).
  - A. If you catch on fire, the world will come watch you burn!
  - B. If you repair your altar and spend time in the presence of the Consuming Fire Himself (Heb. 12:29), your life will be set ablaze with His glory and power.

*And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.*

1 KINGS 18:39

- C. This is the first revival recorded in Scripture.
  - D. Elijah turned the entire nation back to God through one awesome miracle!
- II. We cannot be effective ministers of God ministering in word only.
    - A. There must be some power and demonstration to go with it.
    - B. We believers still have that power—we just aren't using it.
    - C. Even though the Word we have is superior to what Elijah had (2 Pet. 1:19), we don't have the same faith and confidence in it that he did.
    - D. Yet look what he accomplished—Elijah killed 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the groves (1 Kin. 18:19).

*And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.*

1 KINGS 18:40

- E. As New Testament believers, God doesn't want us to go out and kill all the people who aren't preaching the truth.
  - F. However, we do need to get so adamant that we pursue and eradicate all the devil's inroads into our lives.
  - G. We should hate everything Satan is doing and refuse to take no for an answer!
- III. Every truth in God's Word has an apparent opposite.
    - A. Therefore, as much as you believe in God's love, you must also hate the devil.
    - B. Romans 12:9 says,
 

*Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*

- C. These are apparent opposites.
- D. However, you can't just cleave to that which is good and ignore evil; you must hate that which is evil.
- E. You have to love the good AND hate the evil—love God AND hate the devil.

IV. Most people interpret Ephesians 4:26-27 as “Don't go to bed angry. Get it worked out before going to sleep”:

*Let not the sun go down upon your wrath: [27] Neither give place to the devil.*

- A. Although it's beneficial to do that, that's not what this verse is talking about.
- B. This verse is saying that you're supposed to have anger for the devil.
- C. The Lord gave you a capacity for anger, but it's not meant to be used toward other people—it's meant to be used toward the devil.
- D. Satan is just a squatter who will stick around in your life until you evict him.
- E. But don't just chase your Enemy over the hill; don't just fight until you get some relief and you can live with the rest.
- F. Pursue until you conquer—make it so your Enemy can never fight again.
- G. That's what Elijah did.

## Discipleship Questions

1. According to 1 Kings 18:30, what did Elijah have to do before the fire of God could fall?
  
2. *Discussion question:* What does “If you catch on fire, the world will come watch you burn” mean to you?
  
3. What is 1 Kings 18:39 describing?
  
4. You cannot be an effective minister of God by doing what?
  - A. Ministering in English only
  - B. Ministering in word only
  - C. Ministering in miracles only
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
  
5. *Discussion question:* Why are power and demonstration so important to effective ministry?
  
6. You should \_\_\_\_\_ everything Satan is doing and refuse to take \_\_\_\_\_ for an answer!

7. *Discussion question:* Meditate on Romans 12:9, and share any thoughts and revelations you have.
  
8. True or false: You have to love God OR hate the devil.
  
9. *Discussion question:* How do you plan to stay angry at the devil?
  
10. Satan is just a squatter who will do what?
  
11. What should you do to your Enemy?

# Scriptures

**1 KINGS 18:30**

*And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.*

**HEBREWS 12:29**

*For our God is a consuming fire.*

**1 KINGS 18:39-40**

*And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God. [40] And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.*

**2 PETER 1:19**

*We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.*

**1 KINGS 18:19**

*Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.*

**ROMANS 12:9**

*Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*

**EPHESIANS 4:26-27**

*Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: [27] Neither give place to the devil.*

## Outline

- I. At that exact moment, this “*sound of abundance of rain*” was only in Elijah’s heart:

*And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.*

1 KINGS 18:41

- A. There wasn’t anything going on yet out in the physical realm.
- B. But Elijah saw it and heard it in his heart!

- II. Elijah didn’t pray seven times—he only prayed once.

*So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, [43] And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times. [44] And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man’s hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.*

1 KINGS 18:42-44

- A. Even though he sent his servant to go look seven times, he only prayed once.

*Elias [Elijah] was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. [18] And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.*

JAMES 5:17-18, BRACKETS MINE

- B. Sometimes people think it’s wrong to pray about something more than once, but you ought to “*pray without ceasing*” (1 Thess. 5:17).
- C. I don’t believe this scripture is saying to pray twenty-four hours a day.
- D. Praying without ceasing simply means not to stop praying until you see what you’ve prayed for manifest.
- E. Elijah kept praying—prayed without ceasing—until he saw the answer manifest; he became violently resolved.

III. Elijah had just mocked and killed 850 prophets of Baal, called down fire from heaven, and prayed and ended a three-year drought.

*And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. [46] And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins [pulled up and tucked in his robe], and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.*

1 KINGS 18:45-46, BRACKETS MINE

- A. Elijah's adrenaline was pumping so hard that he outran a chariot twenty miles and beat Ahab to Jezreel.
- B. This was an awesome day in the life of Elijah!
- C. But let's look in chapter 19.

*And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. [2] Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time.*

1 KINGS 19:1-2

- D. Upon hearing the news that her prophets had been killed, Jezebel became furious, took an oath saying, "May the gods make me like one of these slaughtered prophets if Elijah isn't dead by this time tomorrow!" and sent a messenger to tell him.

*And when he [Elijah] saw that, he arose, and went [fled] for his life.*

1 KINGS 19:3, BRACKETS MINE

- E. What did Elijah see?
- F. He had just killed 850 people—most usually tend to skim over this because it isn't real pleasant, but they need to stop and envision it.
- G. Think of the blood that Elijah must have been drenched in—what a graphic scene!

IV. So, what did Elijah see (1 Kin. 19:3)?

- A. He saw himself like one of those dead men he had just slaughtered.
- B. The day before, he had seen the word God had put in his heart.
- C. However, this same ability to see what God says on the inside can work in reverse.
- D. We can see both positive and negative things in our hearts.
- E. Elijah saw himself dead, which is why he fled.
- F. Although Jezebel desired to kill Elijah, she didn't have the power to do it.

- G. If Jezebel had truly intended to kill Elijah at that moment, she would have done so without warning him.
  - H. In reality, Jezebel was trying to intimidate Elijah.
  - I. Our greatest temptations will often come immediately after our greatest victories.
- V. Success is harder to handle than failure.
- A. Although this is true, most people don't believe it.
  - B. They say, "What's really inside you comes out when you're squeezed," when actually, it's just the opposite—a person's true character is revealed in times of success.
  - C. Most people who have any commitment, any relationship with the Lord, will seek Him during hard times.
  - D. But where most people are destroyed is in prosperity.
  - E. We can tell more about a person's character in prosperity than we can in adversity.
  - F. When everything is going well, we tend not to be as God-dependent.
  - G. That's why we're the most vulnerable in the midst of prosperity: We tend to become more self-reliant when things are going well.
  - H. That is exactly what happened to Elijah.

## Discipleship Questions

1. True or false: This “*sound of abundance of rain*” (1 Kin. 18:41) wasn’t in the physical realm.
2. *Discussion question:* Why was it so important that Elijah saw this and heard it in his heart? Use Scripture to support your answer.
3. How many times did Elijah pray to end the drought?
4. First Thessalonians 5:17 says to “\_\_\_\_\_.”
5. *Discussion question:* What does 1 Thessalonians 5:17 mean to you, and how can it be applied to your life?
6. Why was this an awesome day in Elijah’s life?
  - A. He had ended a three-year drought
  - B. He had outrun a chariot
  - C. He had called down fire from heaven
  - D. He had mocked and killed 850 prophets of Baal
  - E. All of the above
  - F. None of the above
7. *Discussion question:* Why do you think Elijah focused on what Jezebel said instead of his victories?

8. Can the ability to see what God says on the inside work in reverse?
  
9. You can see both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ things in your heart.
  
10. *Discussion question:* Why do you think that the greatest temptations often come immediately after the greatest victories?
  
11. True or false: Success is harder to handle than failure.
  
12. Your true character is revealed when?
  - A. In times of failure
  - B. In times of mediocrity
  - C. In times of success
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
  
13. *Discussion question:* Why do you think most people are destroyed when they're in prosperity?
  
14. What exactly happened to Elijah?

# Scriptures

## 1 KINGS 18:41-46

*And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain. [42] So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, [43] And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times. [44] And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not. [45] And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. [46] And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.*

## JAMES 5:17-18

*Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. [18] And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.*

## 1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

*Pray without ceasing.*

## 1 KINGS 19:1-3

*And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. [2] Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time. [3] And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.*

## 1 KINGS 18:19

*Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.*

## Outline

- I. If Elijah had really wanted to die, all he had to do was stay there and Jezebel would have obliged him.

*And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. [4] But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.*

1 KINGS 19:3-4

- A. This is the same for so many of us.
- B. We get into self-pity and say things like, "Nothing ever works for me. Things never turn out right!" but we know in our hearts that what we're saying isn't true.
- C. Elijah was praying "Take away my life," when the truth was that he didn't really want to die; he was in self-pity.
- D. Here is a revealing statement:

*O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.*

1 KINGS 19:4

- E. Elijah had just experienced an unbroken string of successes, so this was dangerous territory, and he started thinking he was better than his fathers.
  - F. Elijah honestly thought that somehow or another, God was using him because of some superior ability, quality, or character in his life.
  - G. He thought he was better than other people, and the moment you do that, you're headed for trouble!
- II. Elijah began by being God-dependent, by totally trusting and relying on God to do things through him.
- A. But somewhere along the way, as he saw his successes, he actually moved his identity and confidence away from who he was in the Lord and what God had done in him, to who he was in himself and what he'd done.
  - B. It's easy to be God-dependent when you're struggling, things aren't going well, and there's nothing you can see in the natural to base your faith on.

- C. But when they start seeing success and things begin to work, many people move their confidence away from the Lord and what He has said, to things they can see.
  - D. Then they believe they're a success because of the size of their church, the income of their ministry, the miracles they've seen, or something else.
  - E. Elijah fell because he had transferred his faith and confidence from the Lord to himself.
  - F. And this is true for every last one of us.
  - G. Transferring our faith and confidence from God to ourselves is deadly.
- III. I'm amazed at how many people think that the longer we're with the Lord, the stronger and more anointed we become—somehow, we think that we're improving in the process.
- A. The truth is the exact opposite.
  - B. If we're seeing a greater manifestation of God in our lives—greater joy, power, freedom, etc.—the truth is we're becoming more and more dependent on Him.
  - C. Even though we're more focused on God and can hear Him better, our flesh never improves.
  - D. And the moment we get out of the spirit and into the flesh, we are as capable of doing anything as that flesh was ever capable of doing!
  - E. The only victory you're experiencing is because you've become more and more God-dependent.
  - F. You've let Him live through you (Gal. 2:20).
  - G. The moment you quit letting God live through you by getting back into self-centeredness and self-sufficiency, you are as capable of doing anything as you ever were.
- IV. God is more concerned about you than He is about your ministry; He's more concerned about you than He is just using you.
- A. God won't promote you if He knows you can't handle it—He knows you'll be destroyed.
  - B. God loves you!
  - C. Even though He may have given you a call and you can see what the vision is, there is a time in between the call, being separated to that call, and seeing the fulfillment of it.
  - D. You are the one, primarily, who dictates this amount of time based on what kind of character you develop on the inside.
  - E. This is what happened to Elijah—he never was better than his fathers!
  - F. As soon as Elijah started reading his own press releases, he became swelled up in pride.
  - G. He was headed for failure the moment he thought *I've done things nobody else has ever done. I'm special!* “Better than My Fathers”

## Discipleship Questions

1. Did Elijah really want to die?
2. *Discussion question:* Why do you think it was so important to Elijah to be better than his fathers?
3. What was Elijah thinking?
4. True or false: Elijah began by being self-dependent.
5. As Elijah saw his successes, he moved his identity and confidence away from who he was in the Lord and what God had done in him, to what?
  - A. Who he was in himself and what he'd done
  - B. Who Ahab and Jezebel said he was and what they wanted him to do
  - C. What he saw in the natural and what the ravens told him to do
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
6. *Discussion question:* Why is it easy to be God-dependent when things aren't going well and self-dependent when things are going well?
7. Transferring our faith and confidence from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ is deadly.

8. True or false: The longer you're with the Lord, the stronger and more anointed you become.
  
9. *Discussion question:* How does a greater dependency on God lead to a greater manifestation of Him in your life?
  
10. The moment you get out of the spirit and into the flesh, are you capable of doing anything as that flesh was ever capable of doing?
  
11. *Discussion question:* What are some scriptures that support the concept of letting Christ live through you?
  
12. God is more concerned about \_\_\_\_\_ than He is about your \_\_\_\_\_.
  
13. *Discussion question:* Why wouldn't God promote you if He knows you can't handle it?
  
14. What comes in between the call, being separated to that call, and seeing the fulfillment of it?
  
15. *Discussion question:* What does your character have to do with your ministry, and how can it affect God's timing?

# Scriptures

## 1 KINGS 19:3-4

*And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. [4] But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.*

## 1 KINGS 18:22

*Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.*

## 1 KINGS 18:17

*And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?*

## GALATIANS 2:20

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

## Outline

### I. God asked Elijah, “What are you doing here?”

*And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. [6] And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. [7] And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. [8] And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God. [9] And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?*

**1 KINGS 19:5-9**

- A. Elijah wasn't “there”; this wasn't where God wanted him to be.
- B. They were having a revival in Samaria, but the guy God used to spark it had fled.
- C. Instead of rejoicing and leading the people, Elijah was hiding and complaining.
- D. So, the Lord asked, “What are you doing here? This isn't there! This is not where I want you to be.”

### II. Look at Elijah's answer.

*And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.*

**1 KINGS 19:10**

- A. Instead of humbling himself, he justified himself.
- B. Elijah was defeated, depressed, and in retreat, but he still wasn't willing to admit, “God, it's me. I missed it.”
- C. Instead, he was contending, “It's other people and what they've done. I'm the only one left!”
- D. This attitude is prevalent in society today—very few people accept responsibility for themselves and their actions.
- E. They're always using some excuse.
- F. That's exactly what Elijah was doing.
- G. The Lord was giving him a test to see if he had repented, but he gave the wrong answer.
- H. Elijah was deceived.

- I. Never, under any circumstances, are you ever the only one who loves God.
- J. Anytime you think that, you're in big trouble!
- K. It's just never, ever true.

III. So, the Lord spoke to Elijah again.

*And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: [12] And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.*

1 KINGS 19:11-12

- A. Elijah had started off just listening to the still, small voice and having relationship with God.
- B. He was a nobody—nothing dramatic had ever happened.
- C. Then the Lord had spoken a word into his heart concerning a drought, and the ball started rolling.
- D. Yet later on, Elijah had seen God do so many powerful things through him that he'd moved away from the simple and gotten into the spectacular.
- E. He had moved away from being intimate with and completely dependent on God.
- F. I've met many ministers who have seen God use them in great manifestations of His power, but after a while, that little zing, that emotional high they get from being somebody special, wears off.
- G. Then they have to do something else to become someone special again.
- H. It's easy to transfer your dependence and faith away from God and onto things.
- I. The Lord was calling Elijah back to humility and intimate relationship.
- J. He was saying, "Elijah, you've gotten away from this. This was what made you who you are. It's what made the things you've seen happen. Yet you've gotten away from them."

## Discipleship Questions

1. First Kings 19:9 says, “And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Elijah?”
2. *Discussion question:* Why do you think Elijah wasn’t “there,” where he was supposed to be?
3. How did Elijah answer God’s question?
4. This attitude is prevalent in society today—very few people accept what?
  - A. Credit cards
  - B. Responsibility for themselves and their actions
  - C. Their shortcomings and failings
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
5. *Discussion question:* Why is it dangerous to think you are the only one who loves God?
6. True or false: Elijah was a well-known prophet of God before he received the word concerning the drought.

7. *Discussion question:* In an effort to achieve an emotional high by being someone special, why would you transfer your dependence and faith away from God and onto things?

8. The Lord was calling Elijah back to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

# Scriptures

## 1 KINGS 19:5-12

*And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. [6] And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. [7] And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. [8] And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God. [9] And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? [10] And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. [11] And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: [12] And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.*

## 1 SAMUEL 4:21-22

*And she named the child Ichabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband. [22] And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken.*

## 1 KINGS 18:13

*Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?*

## Outline

- IV. When Elijah first started his ministry, he had nothing in the natural going for him—except he had a word from God.
- A. Then he became a success.
  - B. He moved away from the simplicity of his relationship with the Lord—he left his first love (Rev. 2:4).
  - C. The Lord did all those dramatic things (1 Kings 19:11-12), but He wasn't in them; He was in the still, small voice.
  - D. You'll never grow beyond this—you'll never grow beyond just this personal, intimate relationship with God.
  - E. This must be the foundation of anyone who is going to stay with God over a prolonged period of time.
  - F. In 1 Kings 19:13, the Lord finally spoke to him in a still, small voice, asking again, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
  - G. It's pretty serious when God repeats Himself.
  - H. Elijah failed the first time, so God let him take the test over again by asking the same question.
  - I. However, Elijah answered with the same exact words!

*And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.*

1 KINGS 19:14

- J. If the Lord lets you retake a test, it's because you failed the first time around.
  - K. Elijah should have at least tried a different answer.
  - L. The Lord finally went on and said, "There are 7,000 who haven't bowed the knee to Baal" (1 Kin. 19:18).
  - M. Anytime you think you're the only person with a revelation or who's doing something, you're wrong!
  - N. You've moved into some form of pride and arrogance, thinking that you have something nobody else has—it's never true.
- V. The Lord then told Elijah to do three things.

- A. One was to get a replacement—to find Elisha—and anoint him to be prophet in his stead.
- B. Personally, I don't believe Elisha was God's original plan.
- C. David wasn't God's first choice either.

*And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. [14] But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.*

1 SAMUEL 13:13-14

- D. Saul was God's first choice.
- E. He wasn't an intermediate step on the way to David.
- F. There never would have been a David if Saul had been faithful—Saul was God's first choice and he blew it!
- G. I believe it's the same thing here: Elijah, not Elisha, was God's real choice in this matter.
- H. If Elijah had remained faithful—humbled himself and given the right response—he would have finished his work.
- I. The things Elisha did, Elijah would have accomplished.

VI. Look what God told Elijah to do:

*And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: [16] And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room. [17] And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay. [18] Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.*

1 KINGS 19:15-18

- A. Elijah immediately departed and did the last thing he was commanded to do: He anointed Elisha to be prophet in his stead.
- B. He never did the other two things God told him to do.
  - 1. Elisha had to do them instead (2 Kin. 8:7-15 and 9:1-10).
  - 2. Elisha wouldn't have done them if Elijah had.
- C. God gave him three specific things to do, but Elijah just skipped over two-thirds of them.

- D. Basically, Elijah anointed his successor and quit.
- E. Only a few things were recorded of Elijah in Scripture after this, including when Ahab's son, Ahaziah, sent soldiers to kill him (2 Kings 1).

VII. Elijah called down fire from heaven and consumed 102 men.

- A. However, this wasn't God's perfect will.
- B. Jesus rebuked His disciples in the New Testament for trying to do the same thing (Luke 9:54-56).
- C. I'm not saying Elijah sinned.
- D. It was just a different covenant, so things like that could happen—but it was never God's best.

## Discipleship Questions

9. Read Revelation 2:4. What did Elijah do?
  
10. *Discussion question:* Why won't a believer's relationship never grow beyond a personal, intimate relationship with God?
  
11. *Discussion question:* Why must this type of relationship with God be the foundation of anyone who is going to stay with Him over a prolonged period of time?
  
12. True or false: It's pretty serious when God repeats Himself.
  
13. What should have Elijah done when God asked him the same question again?
  
14. There never would have been a \_\_\_\_\_ if Saul had been faithful—Saul was God's \_\_\_\_\_ and he blew it!
  
15. *Discussion question:* Why is humbling yourself so important to finishing the work God has called you to?
  
16. What did Elijah do after God gave him those three commands (1 Kin. 19:15-18)?

17. What happened with the other two things God told Elijah to do?
- A. They weren't done
  - B. Elijah did them eventually
  - C. Elisha did them instead
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
18. *Discussion question:* What happened to Elijah and his ministry after he anointed his successor, Elisha?
19. *Discussion question:* Why was calling fire down from heaven never God's best? Refer to 2 Kings 1, Luke 9:54-56, and other scriptures as needed.

# Answer Key

9. He left his first love
10. *Discussion question*
11. *Discussion question*
12. True
13. At least tried a different answer
14. *Discussion question*
15. David / first choice
16. *Discussion question*
17. He immediately departed and did the last thing he was commanded to do: He anointed Elisha to be prophet in his stead
18. C. Elisha did them instead
19. *Discussion question*
20. *Discussion question*

# Scriptures

## REVELATION 2:4

*Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*

## 1 KINGS 19:13-18

*And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah? [14] And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. [15] And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: [16] And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room. [17] And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay. [18] Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.*

## 1 KINGS 19:9

*And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?*

## 1 SAMUEL 13:13-14

*And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. [14] But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.*

## 2 KINGS 8:7-15

*And Elisha came to Damascus; and Benhadad the king of Syria was sick; and it was told him, saying, The man of God is come hither. [8] And the king said unto Hazael, Take a present in thine hand, and go, meet the man of God, and enquire of the LORD by him, saying, Shall I recover of this disease? [9] So Hazael went to meet him, and took a present with him, even of every good thing of Damascus, forty camels' burden, and came and stood before him, and said, Thy son Benhadad king of Syria hath sent me to thee, saying, Shall I recover of this disease? [10] And Elisha said unto him,*

Go, say unto him, Thou mayest certainly recover: howbeit the LORD hath shewed me that he shall surely die. [11] And he settled his countenance stedfastly, until he was ashamed: and the man of God wept. [12] And Hazael said, Why weepeth my lord? And he answered, Because I know the evil that thou wilt do unto the children of Israel: their strong holds wilt thou set on fire, and their young men wilt thou slay with the sword, and wilt dash their children, and rip up their women with child. [13] And Hazael said, But what, is thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing? And Elisha answered, The LORD hath shewed me that thou shalt be king over Syria. [14] So he departed from Elisha, and came to his master; who said to him, What said Elisha to thee? And he answered, He told me that thou shouldst surely recover. [15] And it came to pass on the morrow, that he took a thick cloth, and dipped it in water, and spread it on his face, so that he died: and Hazael reigned in his stead.

#### 2 KINGS 9:1-10

And Elisha the prophet called one of the children of the prophets, and said unto him, Gird up thy loins, and take this box of oil in thine hand, and go to Ramothgilead: [2] And when thou comest thither, look out there Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi, and go in, and make him arise up from among his brethren, and carry him to an inner chamber; [3] Then take the box of oil, and pour it on his head, and say, Thus saith the LORD, I have anointed thee king over Israel. Then open the door, and flee, and tarry not. [4] So the young man, even the young man the prophet, went to Ramothgilead. [5] And when he came, behold, the captains of the host were sitting; and he said, I have an errand to thee, O captain. And Jehu said, Unto which of all us? And he said, To thee, O captain. [6] And he arose, and went into the house; and he poured the oil on his head, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I have anointed thee king over the people of the LORD, even over Israel. [7] And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel. [8] For the whole house of Ahab shall perish: and I will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel: [9] And I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah: [10] And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the portion of Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her. And he opened the door, and fled.

#### 1 KINGS 21:1-24

And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. [2] And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money. [3] And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee. [4] And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because

of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread. [5] But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread? [6] And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard. [7] And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. [8] So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth. [9] And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people: [10] And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die. [11] And the men of his city, even the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them, and as it was written in the letters which she had sent unto them. [12] They proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people. [13] And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, even against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died. [14] Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead. [15] And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead. [16] And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it. [17] And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, [18] Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it. [19] And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine. [20] And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD. [21] Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, [22] And will make thine house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked me to anger, and made Israel to sin. [23] And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. [24] Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat.

LUKE 9:54-56

*And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? [55] But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. [56] For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.*



## *Be Faithful!*

**A**fter Elijah anointed Elisha, he didn't do very much. This was basically the end of his ministry. Elijah never anointed the two kings God had commanded him to anoint.

What Ahab did to Naboth was totally unjust. He wanted Naboth's vineyard, but Naboth wouldn't sell. So, Jezebel and Ahab set him up and brought false charges against him. After Jezebel had Naboth stoned, she told Ahab to go down and possess his vineyard (1 Kin. 21).

If Elijah had been obedient to anoint Jehu as king, Ahab and Jezebel wouldn't have done this. When Elisha did finally anoint him, Jehu marched right out of the room, rode straight into Samaria, and immediately killed Ahaziah, Jezebel, and all of Ahab's relatives (2 Kin. 9-10). Ahab himself had already died in battle some time before (1 Kin. 22:34-40). As Jehu took over the kingdom, he deceived all of the nation's Baal worshipers into gathering together at once in the house of Baal. Then he closed the gates and ordered his army to kill every single one of them. Jehu made the house of Baal a latrine (2 Kin. 10:27). He was vicious!

If Elijah had anointed Jehu as king, Ahab and Jezebel would have been dead and Naboth would never have been killed. The death of Naboth was actually a result of Elijah failing to do what God told him to do. Therefore, Elijah was responsible for Naboth's death.

Since the Scripture doesn't tell us exactly what would have or could have happened, it's not productive to speculate. However, we do know that people—both individuals and the nation as a whole—suffered because of Elijah's disobedience. Elisha was actually a second thought. All of this would probably have never happened if Elijah had fulfilled his ministry.

### CALLED BY GRACE

I've heard many people testify that they weren't God's first choice for the assignment He called them to do. You may not be God's first choice either. You may be picking up a mantle that someone else laid down. You may say, "But, Andrew, that's hard on my pride!" Good!

You need to recognize that God has never had anybody qualified working for Him yet. The Lord isn't using you because you're so perfect and holy and you have it all together. If you keep this in mind, it'll prevent you from getting this "Elijah Syndrome" and slipping into this attitude of "I'm the only one!"

God uses you because you're available, responsive, and fully trusting in Him. But the moment you think the Lord is using you because of who you are and what you've done, you're headed for trouble (Prov. 16:18). God could easily raise up somebody else to do it instead. Although He calls you based on His grace, whether or not the Lord promotes you any further does depend on how you respond to certain things.

If Elijah had humbled himself when God tested him, I believe the Lord would have restored him. Then Elijah could have fulfilled his call in life. But since he continued in arrogance, Elijah missed most of the rest of God's plan.

## STAY HUMBLE

God loves us and it's by His grace that He's called any of us to minister. It's His grace that has given us whatever gifts we have. Our gifts and callings are by grace. They aren't based on our performance (Rom. 11:29). But as far as our God-given spheres of influence, those are dependent on a lot of things.

If you've proven to be a person without character, the Lord won't promote you. That doesn't mean you can't be promoted. There is a religious system today that can promote people itself. Some folks who make it to the "top," get on radio and television, become famous, but were not put there by God at all. The Lord doesn't promote someone who isn't going to accurately represent Him.

If you fall into this "Elijah Syndrome" and flunk your test, humble yourself and learn from your mistake. If God gives you a retest and you continue in your arrogance, you could actually decrease your influence and cut your ministry short. Faithfulness is important!

God rewards faithfulness. He has a perfect plan for every single one of us, totally independent of our performance. However, our ability to experience and fulfill those plans will depend on how closely we follow the Lord and stay humble before Him.

Elijah was a man who did all these great things. Then he also failed—big time! When God spoke to him in an audible voice, he refused to do two-thirds of what God had commanded him to do. Yet Elijah walked with God to such a degree that he was translated into heaven. He was one of only two people who never died (2 Kin. 2:11 and Heb. 11:5). Talk about grace!

## KNOW YOUR PLACE

Basically, Elijah never fulfilled his ministry. He didn't do everything God told him to do. He quit midstream because he failed. Elijah was just never able to recover and get back on track, because his confidence was in himself. Yet he walked with God to such a degree that he was translated:

*And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. [2] And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel.*

2 KINGS 2:1-2

*And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.*

2 KINGS 2:4

*And Elijah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here: for the LORD hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on.*

2 KINGS 2:6

Elijah tried to part with Elisha three different times, but Elisha just held on. Elisha had this concept that Elijah possessed in the beginning: He was going to be where God wanted him to be. He was going to be “there!” Elisha knew what was going to happen to Elijah, and he refused to stay “here”; he went “there.” He knew his place was with Elijah, not somewhere else. Therefore, he wouldn't take no for an answer. Elisha was a faithful guy!

**FULLY DEPENDENT ON HIM**

Elisha was never rebuked the way Elijah was. We didn't see the failure in Elisha's life the way we saw it in Elijah's. Elisha performed twice as many miracles, yet he wasn't translated. He died. In fact, the Scripture records that he died sick.

*Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died.... [20] And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year. [21] And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.*

2 KINGS 13:14 AND 20-21

Even though Elisha died of sickness, the power of God operated so strongly in him that a dead man came back to life after merely touching his bones! I don't understand how there was enough anointing in Elisha's bones to raise the dead yet he died of sickness. I also don't understand how Elisha could be more faithful than Elijah yet not have the same results. Why wasn't he translated too? Apparently, there were other variables that we're not aware of.

There is much to learn from the life of Elijah! When you begin to see success and start feeling like you've done something, you'd better draw near to God and keep your full dependence on Him. If you swell up in pride, you'll be headed for a fall (Prov. 16:18). Recognize that you aren't the only one preaching the Word, ministering in power, and doing something to advance God's kingdom. You need to maintain a humble attitude. If you do, the Lord will be able to preserve you from the kinds of problems you saw in the life of Elijah (1 Pet. 5:5-6).

# Scriptures

## REVELATION 2:4

*Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*

## 1 KINGS 19:13-18

*And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah? [14] And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. [15] And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: [16] And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room. [17] And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay. [18] Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.*

## 1 KINGS 19:9

*And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?*

## 1 SAMUEL 13:13-14

*And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. [14] But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.*

## 2 KINGS 8:7-15

*And Elisha came to Damascus; and Benhadad the king of Syria was sick; and it was told him, saying, The man of God is come hither. [8] And the king said unto Hazael, Take a present in thine hand, and go, meet the man of God, and enquire of the LORD by him, saying, Shall I recover of this disease? [9] So Hazael went to meet him, and took a present with him, even of every good thing of Damascus, forty camels' burden, and came and stood before him, and said, Thy son Benhadad king of Syria hath sent me to thee, saying, Shall I recover of this disease? [10] And Elisha said unto him,*

Go, say unto him, Thou mayest certainly recover: howbeit the LORD hath shewed me that he shall surely die. [11] And he settled his countenance stedfastly, until he was ashamed: and the man of God wept. [12] And Hazael said, Why weepeth my lord? And he answered, Because I know the evil that thou wilt do unto the children of Israel: their strong holds wilt thou set on fire, and their young men wilt thou slay with the sword, and wilt dash their children, and rip up their women with child. [13] And Hazael said, But what, is thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing? And Elisha answered, The LORD hath shewed me that thou shalt be king over Syria. [14] So he departed from Elisha, and came to his master; who said to him, What said Elisha to thee? And he answered, He told me that thou shouldst surely recover. [15] And it came to pass on the morrow, that he took a thick cloth, and dipped it in water, and spread it on his face, so that he died: and Hazael reigned in his stead.

#### 2 KINGS 9:1-10

And Elisha the prophet called one of the children of the prophets, and said unto him, Gird up thy loins, and take this box of oil in thine hand, and go to Ramothgilead: [2] And when thou comest thither, look out there Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi, and go in, and make him arise up from among his brethren, and carry him to an inner chamber; [3] Then take the box of oil, and pour it on his head, and say, Thus saith the LORD, I have anointed thee king over Israel. Then open the door, and flee, and tarry not. [4] So the young man, even the young man the prophet, went to Ramothgilead. [5] And when he came, behold, the captains of the host were sitting; and he said, I have an errand to thee, O captain. And Jehu said, Unto which of all us? And he said, To thee, O captain. [6] And he arose, and went into the house; and he poured the oil on his head, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I have anointed thee king over the people of the LORD, even over Israel. [7] And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel. [8] For the whole house of Ahab shall perish: and I will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel: [9] And I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah: [10] And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the portion of Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her. And he opened the door, and fled.

#### 1 KINGS 21:1-24

And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. [2] And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money. [3] And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee. [4] And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because

of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread. [5] But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread? [6] And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard. [7] And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. [8] So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth. [9] And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people: [10] And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die. [11] And the men of his city, even the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them, and as it was written in the letters which she had sent unto them. [12] They proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people. [13] And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, even against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died. [14] Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead. [15] And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead. [16] And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it. [17] And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, [18] Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it. [19] And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine. [20] And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD. [21] Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, [22] And will make thine house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked me to anger, and made Israel to sin. [23] And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. [24] Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat.

LUKE 9:54-56

*And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? [55] But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. [56] For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.*

## Outline

- I. What Ahab did to Naboth was totally unjust.
  - A. If Elijah had been obedient to anoint Jehu as king, Ahab and Jezebel wouldn't have falsely accused Naboth, killed him, and stolen his land (1 Kin. 21).
  - B. When Elisha did finally anoint him, Jehu marched right out of the room, rode straight into Samaria, and immediately killed Ahaziah, Jezebel, and all of Ahab's relatives (2 Kin. 9-10).
  - C. If Elijah had anointed Jehu as king, Ahab and Jezebel would have been dead and Naboth would never have been killed.
  - D. The death of Naboth was actually a result of Elijah failing to do what God told him to do.
  - E. Since the Scripture doesn't tell us exactly what would have or could have happened, it's not productive to speculate.
  - F. However, we do know that people—both individuals and the nation as a whole—suffered because of Elijah's disobedience.
  - G. All of this would probably have never happened if Elijah had fulfilled his ministry.
  
- II. You need to recognize that God has never had anybody qualified working for Him yet.
  - A. The Lord isn't using you because you're so perfect and holy and you have it all together.
  - B. If you keep this in mind, it'll prevent you from getting this "Elijah Syndrome" and slipping into this attitude of "I'm the only one!"
  - C. God uses you because you're available, responsive, and fully trusting in Him.
  - D. But the moment you think the Lord is using you because of who you are and what you've done, you're headed for trouble (Prov. 16:18).
  - E. God could easily raise up somebody else to do it instead.
  - F. Although He calls you based on His grace, whether or not the Lord promotes you any further does depend on how you respond to certain things.
  - G. If Elijah had humbled himself when God tested him, I believe the Lord would have restored him—then Elijah could have fulfilled his call in life.
  
- III. God loves us and it's by His grace that He's called any of us to minister.
  - A. Our gifts and callings are by grace; they aren't based on our performance (Rom. 11:29).
  - B. But as far as our God-given spheres of influence, those are dependent on a lot of things.
  - C. If we've proven to be people without character, the Lord won't promote us.
  - D. That doesn't mean we can't be promoted.
  - E. There is a religious system today that can promote people itself.

- F. But the Lord doesn't promote someone who isn't going to accurately represent Him.
- G. If we fall into this "Elijah Syndrome" and flunk our test, we should humble ourselves and learn from our mistakes.
- H. Faithfulness is important!
- I. God rewards faithfulness.
- J. He has a perfect plan for every single one of us, totally independent of our performance.
- K. However, our ability to experience and fulfill those plans will depend on how closely we follow the Lord and stay humble before Him.

IV. Basically, Elijah never fulfilled his ministry.

- A. He quit midstream because he failed.
- B. Elijah was just never able to recover and get back on track, because his confidence was in himself.
- C. Yet he walked with God to such a degree that he was translated:

*And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. [2] And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel.*

2 KINGS 2:1-2

*And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.*

2 KINGS 2:4

*And Elijah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here: for the LORD hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on.*

2 KINGS 2:6

- D. Elijah tried to part with Elisha three different times, but Elisha just held on.
- E. Elisha had this concept that Elijah possessed in the beginning: He was going to be where God wanted him to be—he was going to be "there!"
- F. He knew his place was with Elijah, not somewhere else; therefore, he wouldn't take no for an answer.
- G. Elisha was a faithful guy!

- V. Elisha was never rebuked the way Elijah was, nor did we see the failure in Elisha's life the way we saw it in Elijah's.
  - A. Elisha performed twice as many miracles, yet he wasn't translated—he died.
  - B. In fact, the Scripture records that he died sick.

*Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died.... [20] And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year. [21] And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.*

2 KINGS 13:14 AND 20-21

- C. Even though Elisha died of sickness, the power of God operated so strongly in him that a dead man came back to life after merely touching his bones!
  - D. I don't understand how there was enough anointing in Elisha's bones to raise the dead yet he died of sickness.
  - E. I also don't understand how Elisha could be more faithful than Elijah yet not have the same results—why wasn't he translated too?
  - F. Apparently, there were other variables that we're not aware of.
- VI. There is much to learn from the life of Elijah!
    - A. When you begin to see success and start feeling like you've done something, you'd better draw near to God and keep your full dependence on Him.
    - B. If you swell up in pride, you'll be headed for a fall (Prov. 16:18).
    - C. Recognize that you aren't the only one preaching the Word, ministering in power, and doing something to advance God's kingdom.
    - D. You need to maintain a humble attitude.
    - E. If you do, the Lord will be able to preserve you from the kinds of problems you saw in the life of Elijah (1 Pet. 5:5-6).

## Discipleship Questions

1. *Discussion question:* Meditate on the actions of Elijah, Ahab, Jezebel, Naboth, and Jehu (1 Kin. 21 and 2 Kin. 9-10). What can you learn from these people?
2. True or false: The Lord is using you because you're so perfect and holy and you have it all together.
3. Why does God use you?
4. *Discussion question:* What are your thoughts on the idea that "although He calls you based on His grace, whether or not the Lord promotes you any further does depend on how you respond to certain things?"
5. God \_\_\_\_\_ you and it's by His \_\_\_\_\_ that He's \_\_\_\_\_ any of you to minister.
6. Your gifts and callings are by grace; they aren't based on what, according to Romans 11:29?
  - A. Your performance
  - B. The weather
  - C. Your family
  - D. God
  - E. Your circumstances
7. *Discussion question:* Why are character and faithfulness so important when it comes to the Lord promoting you?

8. Your ability to experience and fulfill God's perfect plans for you will depend on what?
  
9. Why did Elijah quit in the middle of his ministry?
  
10. *Discussion question:* What can you learn from Elisha's faithfulness (2 Kin. 2:1-2, 4, and 6)?
  
11. *Discussion question:* What can you learn from Elisha's death (2 Kin. 13:14 and 20-21)?
  
12. When you begin to see success and start feeling like you've done something, is that the time to pull away from God and start relying on yourself?
  
13. What does Proverbs 16:18 tell you?
  
14. What will happen if you maintain a humble attitude?

# Scriptures

## 1 KINGS 22:34-40

*And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded. [35] And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot. [36] And there went a proclamation throughout the host about the going down of the sun, saying, Every man to his city, and every man to his own country. [37] So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king in Samaria. [38] And one washed the chariot in the pool of Samaria; and the dogs licked up his blood; and they washed his armour; according unto the word of the LORD which he spake. [39] Now the rest of the acts of Ahab, and all that he did, and the ivory house which he made, and all the cities that he built, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? [40] So Ahab slept with his fathers; and Ahaziah his son reigned in his stead.*

## 2 KINGS 10:27

*And they brake down the image of Baal, and brake down the house of Baal, and made it a draught house unto this day.*

## PROVERBS 16:18

*Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*

## ROMANS 11:29

*For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.*

## 2 KINGS 2:11

*And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.*

## HEBREWS 11:5

*By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*

**2 KINGS 2:1-2**

*And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. [2] And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel.*

**2 KINGS 2:4**

*And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.*

**2 KINGS 2:6**

*And Elijah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the LORD hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on.*

**2 KINGS 13:14**

*Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof.*

**2 KINGS 13:20-21**

*And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year. [21] And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.*

**1 PETER 5:5-6**

*Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. [6] Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.*