

Power Through Prayer

1 Kings 18:41-46

⁴¹ Then Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain.” ⁴² So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, ⁴³ and said to his servant, “Go up now, look toward the sea.”

So he went up and looked, and said, “There is nothing.” And seven times he said, “Go again.”

⁴⁴ Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, “There is a cloud, as small as a man’s hand, rising out of the sea!” So he said, “Go up, say to Ahab, ‘Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.’”

⁴⁵ Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel. ⁴⁶ Then the hand of the LORD came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

—1 Kings 18:41–46

Read 1 Kings 18:41–46

In the epistle of James, we read that Elijah the prophet had a nature like ours:

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit (James 5:17–18).

Like us, Elijah was subject to the same doubts, fears, and frailties that we face. The distinguishing feature of Elijah was not his great faith, his boldness, or courage (though he exercised faith, boldness, and courage). The distinguishing characteristic of Elijah was that he prayed earnestly. God not only heard Elijah’s prayer, He also answered the prophet’s prayers in spectacular ways. Elijah was in constant communication with God,

and it was through prayer that Elijah's faith was strengthened, his spirit emboldened, and his courageousness fixed.

Sometimes we are discouraged because we feel as if we lack faith, boldness, and courage. We should take heart knowing that the prophet Elijah struggled with the same factors. The distinguishing characteristic of Elijah's life—prayer—is accessible to us today. When we pray, our faith is strengthened, our spirits are emboldened, and we not only receive courage, but God works in and through our lives. Do you want to see God work in your life, circumstances, neighborhood, city, state, nation, and the world? Then pray!

Prayerfully read through 1 Kings 18:41–46.

1. Keeping in mind that Israel had experienced three years of drought, what do you find remarkable about Elijah's instruction to Ahab? 1 Kings 18:41
2. Use 1 Kings 18:42 to note and contrast the actions of:
 - a. Ahab
 - b. Elijah
3. Answer the following questions using 1 Kings 18:43–44.
 - a. What did Elijah instruct his servant to do?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Drought not only put the land at an increased risk for wildfires and dust storms, but also impacted their economy, livelihood, nutrition, and livestock.

- b. What did the servant see?
 - c. How many times did the servant repeat his action?
 - d. What did the servant see the final time he looked?
 - e. After the servant's report, what did Elijah instruct Ahab to do?
 - 1) What do you find astonishing about this?
4. Use 1 Kings 18:45 to describe the answer to Elijah's prayer.
 5. Note and comment on the extraordinary events of 1 Kings 18:46.

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

From the mountain range of Carmel, especially on a clear day, there is an outstanding view of the Mediterranean Sea.

6. Share any insights you have about the following phrases from this passage:
 - a. *There is the sound of abundance of rain* (verse 41)

 - b. *There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea* (verse 44)

 - c. *The hand of the LORD came upon Elijah* (verse 46)

7. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Kings 18:41–46?