

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, December 4, 2016
The Days of Elijah
9: Stay the Course

TEXT: James 5:17-18 / 1 Kings 17:15-24 / Eph 6:17-18

This is a year of desiring Fresh fire. The Lord spoke to me through a song: **“These are the days of Elijah.” Why did the Lord say “Elijah” to us right now?** We are looking at the implications of Elijah for us in the New Covenant. and especially in this hour. In the case of the widow at Zarephath, we began to learn about the prayer of intercession.

Help a friend get their miracle. Notice Elijah's responses to her complaint: He grabbed the problem, he pled the case, and he stayed the course. We are learning to intercede for others effectively. We saw – Give me Your Son – taking their place in the Spirit, Plead the case – appeal to the covenant and our standing, today – stay the course – don't quit till you're through.

1) Christianity rewards endurance.

- a) Heb 6:13 – *makrothumia* – going for the long haul without giving in to frustration and emotional despair (See Gal 6:9)
- b) Heb 10:36 – *hupomone*- endurance, perseverance. Staying steady under pressure (See James 1:2-4, Hebrews 12:1)
- c) 2 Tim 2:24 - *anexikakos* - forbearing: especially in dealing with wayward people who don't seem to be listening.

2) New Testament Intercession perseveres with passion

- a) Ephesians 6:18 MSG In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. **Pray hard and long.** Pray for your brothers and sisters. **Keep your eyes open.** Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.
- b) Three things to note
 - **Have the sword** in hand (V. 17)
 - **Pray watchful** and with supplications: This is a passionate commitment to get an answer.
 - **Don't quit.** Perseverance: *proskartereō*; to endure or be strong. **To tarry**, remain somewhere; **referring to those who continually insist on something or stay close to someone**; steadfastness and faithfulness in the outgoings of the Christian life, especially in prayer:
 - Endurance is characteristic of genuine NT intercession:

- It is something we give ourselves to in equal proportion with the Word Acts 6:4
- It can be done in concert in times of uncertainty Acts 1:14
- It is an equal partner in Christian practice with teaching, fellowship, and the common meal. Acts 2:42
- It is the go-to position in times of trouble (*thlipsis* = pressure) Romans 12:12
- It is where we keep our eye on the movements of the enemy and the future in the Spirit. Colossians 4:2

3) Elijah is our example: James 5:17-18

a) 1 Kings 18:41-46

- Be watchful in the Spirit to hear the sound of rain
- We pray and keep praying until we see the clouds
 - (1) Elijah had a promise, but he had to pray to see it. 1 Kings 18:1
 - (2) He didn't know how long it would take.
 - (3) He knew something was going to happen!
 - (4) He prayed until the cloud appeared.
- He was supernaturally strengthened, not physically worn out.

b) On your prayer project:

- Get on the promise – don't turn loose of the Word.
- Keep your Holy Ghost expect-er in gear. (feed it Word)
- Don't quit until you see the cloud. This is not a religious exercise, it is a spiritual enterprise – a partnership between you and the Spirit. He decides when you are through.
 - (1) God may speak to you, the unction may lift and peace take its place, a note of triumph, a flow of joy inside, Keep praying until something changes
 - (2) Expect supernatural strength to more than make recompense for the time you spend in intercession. God will give you grace if you will give Him time.

"Prayer is not learned in a classroom but in the closet."

E. M. Bounds