

**Faith Christian Fellowship**  
**Sunday, December 11, 2016**  
**The Days of Elijah**  
**10: Pray for Rain!**

**TEXT:** James 5:7-8/17-18 / 1 Kings 18:41-46/ 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. Elijah responded to her complaint: He grabbed the problem, he pled the case, and he stayed the course. We are learning to intercede effectively. Today we turn to the specific New Testament example of Elijah: praying for rain!!! I don't know about you, but I'm ready for the rain.

**1) Rain is a picture of the blessing of the Lord**

- a) Hosea 6:3 The Lord comes as the rain to those who continue on to know Him.
- b) Ps. 72:6,7- Peace and prosperity to the righteous, but terror to His enemies. Ps 68:2
- c) Ps. 68:9- the rain brings refreshing to the inheritance of the Lord. V..10
- d) Dt. 32:2- sermons fall like the rain on the hearts of our hearers.
- e) Dt. 11:10,11- a land free from works. Real revival comes by the move of God, not the efforts of men.
- f) Amos 4:6-8 Sporadic rain is God's mercy in times of judgment

**2) Rain comes from obedience.**

- a) Drought was a part of the curse Leviticus 26:19
- b) Dt. 28:1,2,12- rain follows obedience to His commandments
  - i) 1 John 3:23 Our commandment is **love Him and love others**
  - ii) Eph. 4:1-3 Our command in the local fellowship is to put up with one another or we will not be worthy of our calling.
    - (1) We often have little in common other than Jesus
    - (2) There is much that requires tolerance 1 Cor. 1:26
- c) Mal. 3:8-12 **Obedience in giving** opens the windows of heaven
  - i) Non-tithers, those who see the tithe in scripture but fail to obey, do several things as an act of their unsanctified will:
    - (1) They rob God
    - (2) They disrespect the ministry gift. Gal. 6:6-8

- (3) They consign themselves to a life of drought.
- (4) They disregard a dying world and the Lord's return.
- ii) Windows of heaven refers to the rain: Gen. 7:11 / Dt. 28:11
- iii) The Church holds back the latter rain by holding back tithes and offerings. Notice how the scriptures tie giving to harvest.
  - (1) Pr. 3:9-10 You want the wine to flow?
  - (2) Philippians 4:19 God meets the needs of givers.
  - (3) 1 Tim.6:17 One job of a pastor is to **command** the rich of this world what to do with their money
- d) Got seed that hasn't come up?
  - i) Check your love
  - ii) Check your giving
- 3) **Rain comes in response to prayer.**
  - a) James 5:7; James 5:16-18 We can pray for rain
  - b) This whole passage is talking about praying for rain. It tells us that we have exactly the same equipment to pray for rain that Elijah had
    - i) 1 Kings 18:41-46: Remember what we learned last week: GET on the Word, Keep expecting results, don't quit till you're done, expect to be supernaturally strengthened.
    - ii) Zech. 10:1. A command to those who believe themselves to be living in the time of the latter rain. Note the promise!!!!
      - (1) Spectacular manifestations of His glory
      - (2) **EVERYONE** a crop in the final harvest.
  - c) **Next project** (Don't quit on the one you're doing)
    - i) Start praying for rain
    - ii) Remind the Lord of seed you have planted: Word seed, money seed, service seed.
    - iii) James 5: 19-20 Pick a wanderer and start praying for them to return home

**"If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. If they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees. Let no one go there unwarned and unprayed for."**

Charles Spurgeon