

Faith in the Drought: Trusting God's Provision and Power

Imagine living in a time when faith in God is nearly extinct—where the nation around you has abandoned truth and embraced idolatry. That's the backdrop of Elijah's arrival in 1 Kings 17. He steps onto the scene in Israel's darkest spiritual hour, confronting King Ahab, whose wicked leadership, alongside his wife Jezebel, has nearly eradicated the worship of the one true God.

Elijah's first words to Ahab are bold: *"As the LORD God lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word"* (1 Kings 17:1). And with that, he disappears from public view. For three and a half years, Israel would endure a drought—not just physical, but spiritual. Sometimes, God allows seasons of dryness in our lives to get our attention. Maybe He's doing that in your life now—removing comforts, shaking things up, bringing you to a place where you have no choice but to trust Him.

God's Provision in Unexpected Places

After delivering his message, Elijah is led by God to the Brook Cherith, where he drinks from the stream and is fed by ravens—morning and evening. Think about that for a moment. God used birds to deliver his meals! It wasn't extravagant, but it was enough.

Maybe you're in a season where resources feel scarce. Maybe your finances, relationships, or emotional reserves are running dry. God may not provide in the way you expect, but He will sustain you. The key is obedience—Elijah went *where* God told him, and *there* God provided. If we are in the place of obedience, we can trust God to meet our needs.

But then, the brook dried up. Have you ever been in a place where what once sustained you is gone? A job, a relationship, a source of security—suddenly gone? The key lesson here is that Elijah did not panic; he simply listened for God's next instruction.

Trusting God When You Have Nothing Left

God directed Elijah to a widow in Zarephath, a Gentile town outside of Israel. When he arrives, he finds a woman gathering sticks—her final attempt to prepare a last meal for herself and her son before they starve. Elijah asks for water, then for bread, which seems like an impossible request considering her situation. But then he tells her:

"Do not fear... make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth'" (1 Kings 17:13-14).

This widow had a choice: trust God and give what little she had, or hold on to it in fear. This is where we often struggle. When life is uncertain, our instinct is to grasp tightly to what we have rather than surrender it to God. But when we seek Him first, as Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, everything else falls into place.

The widow obeyed, and God did the miraculous—her flour and oil never ran out. This is a powerful reminder that God's provision follows obedience. When we put Him first, even in times of scarcity, He sustains us.

God Moves Through Impossible Situations

Later, the widow's son becomes ill and dies. In anguish, she questions Elijah, wondering if her past sins have caught up with her. Have you ever faced a tragedy and wondered if God was punishing you? Pain can make us doubt God's goodness. But Elijah responds with faith—he takes the child, lays him on his bed, stretches himself over him, and prays earnestly. God hears Elijah's prayer, and the boy is revived.

Maybe you're facing an impossible situation. Maybe you feel like hope is lost. But this story reminds us that God is a God of resurrection—He can breathe life into what seems dead, whether it's a relationship, a dream, or a season of faith that feels distant.

Personal Application: Living by Faith

1. **Trust God's timing and direction** – Like Elijah, we must go where God leads, even when it doesn't make sense. If He says, "Go to the brook," we go. If He says, "Now go to Zarephath," we go. Provision follows obedience.
2. **Put God first** – The widow had only enough for one last meal, but when she prioritized obedience, God provided. Are you putting God first in your finances, relationships, and decisions?
3. **Believe in God's power over your circumstances** – The widow saw a miracle, but she still doubted when her son died. Sometimes, even after God provides, we still struggle to trust Him. But He is the same God in times of provision and in times of trial.
4. **Prayer changes things** – Elijah's persistent prayer brought the boy back to life. If you're in a situation that seems hopeless, don't stop praying.

Ultimately, this passage teaches us that God is faithful. Whether we're in a drought, facing loss, or wondering how we'll make it through, He is in control. Our role is to trust Him, seek Him first, and obey—even when it doesn't make sense.