



The Well

an ordinary place
where extraordinary
things happen

STSA.CHURCH/THEWELL

**A HUMBLED
HERO**

THE LIFE OF ELIJAH



A ONCE IN A LIFETIME HERO PART 1

hero: ‘a character (real or fictional) who, in the face of danger and adversity or from a position of weakness, displays courage and the will for self sacrifice, for some greater good of all humanity.’

“ELIJAH THE TISHBITE, OF THE INHABITANTS OF GILEAD”

“Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel; and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him. And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him. -1 Kings 16:29-33

GOD FIGHTS DARKNESS BY SENDING A SOLDIER OF LIGHT

“And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.” - 1 Kings 17:1

KEY THOUGHT

HE WHO KNEELS BEFORE GOD CAN STAND BEFORE ANYONE.

LESSONS LEARNED

- 1. No matter how bleak, God always has a plan**
- 2. God's light comes through God's people/servants**
- 3. When we kneel before God, we will never stand alone**

“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

-2 Chronicles 16:9

“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

THINK/TALK IT OVER

- How would you define “hero”? How might God define it?
- Why does God fight darkness by sending people, as opposed to solving problems on His own?
- He who kneels before God can stand before anyone. What is one way you can do more of that this week?





THE TRAINING BEGINS

PART 2

HE WHO KNEELS BEFORE GOD CAN STAND BEFORE ANYONE.

“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

-2 Chronicles 16:9

See 1 Kings 17:2-7

Cherith = “cut down” or “cut off”

GOD ISN'T TRYING TO FIX THE ISSUE. HE'S TRYING TO FIX ME.

“For the godly hero to be useful as an instrument of significance in the Lord’s hand, he must be humbled and forced to trust. He must, in other words, be cut down to size. It’s doubtful that God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply.” Charles Swindoll

SOURCE OF POWER = THE HIDDEN LIFE

“He found him in a desert land and in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye.” -Deuteronomy 32:10

Real power comes from a COMMITMENT to alone time with God.

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” Psalm 91:1

THE SAME GOD WHO GIVES WATER, ALSO TAKES IT AWAY.

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” -Job 1:21

“But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me, and my Lord has forgotten me.” “Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands;”
-Isaiah 49:14-16

THINK/TALK IT OVER

- Why does God care more about fixing us vs fixing the issue?
- Give an honest evaluation of “hidden life”? What can you do to improve it?
- Read Job 1:21 again. How does that verse make you feel?



THE SHOWDOWN ON MT CARMEL

PART 3

**He who kneels before God
can stand before anyone.**

**WE CAN WALK IN INVINCIBILITY LIKE ELIJAH,
WHEN...**

1. WE KNOW WE ARE IN THE WILL OF GOD

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” -Ephesians 5:15-17

“If God is for us, who can be against us?” -Romans 8:31

2. WE FIGHT BATTLES WITH EARNEST PRAYER

“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

“The great people of the earth today are people who pray. I do not mean people who talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor yet those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those people who take time and pray. They have not the time. It must be taken from something else. This something else is important. Very important, pressing, but still less important and less pressing than prayer.” -SD Gordon

3. WE ARE PASSIONATE FOR ONLY ONE THING... THE GLORY OF GOD

“Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word.” -1 Kings 18:36

“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

-2 Chronicles 16:9

THINK/TALK IT OVER

- In what area are you lacking confidence that you are “in the will of God”?
- Do you know anyone who seeks only the glory of God, and not of him/herself? How would you characterize that person’s life?
- What is your reaction to the quote from SD Gordon about prayer?



FROM THE MOUNTAIN TO THE VALLEY

PART 4

“Elijah was a man with a nature like ours...”
James 5:17

**Because I know Elijah’s been to the places I’ve been,
I know I can reach to the places he’s reached.**

“For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life.” 2 Corinthians 1:8

“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”
1 Corinthians 10:12

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” Romans 3:23

ELIJAH’S FALL

1. HE WAS ALONE

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.” Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

2. HE FELT SORRY FOR HIMSELF

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

3. HE WAS TIRED AND HUNGRY

Don't underestimate your physical needs when going through a spiritual problem.

4. HE LOOKED AWAY FROM GOD AND ONTO HIS CIRCUMSTANCE

**Focus on the world and you'll be distressed.
Focus on yourself and you'll be depressed.
Focus on God and you'll be at rest.**

THINK/TALK IT OVER

- Which of the four criteria from Elijah's fall is most likely to cause problems for you and how can you protect against it?
- How might forcing yourself to “give thanks” impact you and your current situation?
- What does it mean to you to “focus on God” as opposed to focusing on the world or yourself?



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