



# Keep on Praying

Message  
Companion

The Day the Rain Came  
1 Kings 18:38-46

# Contents

## Contents

This is a Message Companion to Pastor Ron's sermon entitled,

### Elijah - Part 7 - Keep on Praying

Read: 1 Kings 18:38-46

Take some time to go to our podcast **"Good News from The Grove"** and listen to this teaching. You can also go the Teachings page on our website [www.PleasantGrove.info](http://www.PleasantGrove.info) to access message. This is Part 7 of the series, **Elijah: Someone Like Me**

**Message Companion includes:**

- Main Scripture
- Message Recap
- Devotions
- Questions for Thought
- Additional Scriptures

**Grace & Peace!**



# Main Scripture

## 1 Kings 18:38-46 (NKJV)

38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!" 40 And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there. 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.

# Message Recap

# Message Recap

Text: 1 Kings 18:38-46

## Keep on Praying

Key Points:

- Partnership
- Passion
- Perseverance
- Power

# Partnership with God

At the heart of effective prayer lies a fundamental truth: we are called to be partners with God. This partnership isn't just about our personal needs or desires; it's about becoming vessels through which God's will is accomplished on earth. Whether in our workplaces, families, or communities, we are positioned as God's ambassadors, tasked with bringing His kingdom influence to every sphere of our lives.

This partnership is beautifully illustrated in Elijah's life. Time and again, we see a pattern: God speaks, Elijah listens and acts, Elijah prays, and God responds. It's a dance with the Divine, a partnership that brings heaven's realities to earth.

Just as Elijah's prayers were instrumental in bringing rain and ending a devastating drought, our prayers today can be the catalyst for God's intervention for other people. The miracles we need – healing, deliverance, restoration, wisdom, provision – don't just happen automatically. They often come riding on the prayers of God's people.

# Passion in Prayer

James 5:16 speaks of the "effective, fervent prayer of a righteous person" that "avails much." This fervency isn't about volume or eloquence; it's about the fire of passion in our hearts. It's about praying as if our lives – and the lives of others – depend on it. Elijah exemplified this passionate prayer. We see him bowed to the ground, face between his knees, earnestly seeking God for rain after years of drought. His posture and persistence reveal a man fully invested in his communication with God. Both humble before God and passionate to God's will done.

Elijah was passionate about seeing God's name honored, His kingdom come, and His will done – sound familiar? These are 3 first things Jesus taught us to pray in The LORD's Prayer. These 3 things fuel our passion!

# Perseverance in Prayer

One of the most challenging aspects of prayer is persevering when we don't see immediate results. Elijah's experience teaches us valuable lessons about persistence in prayer. After his dramatic victory over the prophets of Baal, Elijah heard in his spirit the "sound of abundant rain." Yet when he sent his servant to look, there was nothing – not a cloud in sight, no rain. Six times Elijah sent his servant, and six times the report came back: **nothing**. What do we do when nothing happens? When our prayers seem to hit a ceiling? When healing doesn't come? When relationships remain broken? When circumstances don't change? Elijah's response is clear: **go again**.

This “go again” mentality is crucial in our lives. In a world of instant gratification, we must cultivate the spiritual stamina to keep praying, keep believing, keep seeking God even when we don't see quick results. It's in these moments that our faith is truly tested and strengthened.

On the seventh attempt, Elijah's servant reported a tiny cloud, no bigger than a man's hand. It was enough. Elijah knew the abundant rain he had heard from the Spirit was now on its way into the natural realm.

### **The Power Released Through Prayer**

James Chapter 5 teaches us “The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” When we pray from this position of being in right standing with God, incredible power is released. James connects this power not just to controlling weather patterns, but to something even more vital: “Pray for each other so that you may be healed.”

There's an implication here that our prayers for one another are instrumental in releasing God's healing power – both physical and spiritual. Our intercession becomes the conduit through which God's forgiveness, healing, and restoration flow to others.

# Practical Application

1. Recognize your partnership with God. You are positioned as His ambassador wherever you are. Your prayers matter.
2. Cultivate passion in prayer. Align your heart with God's desires for the people around you.
3. Persevere through delays. Develop a "go again" mentality, refusing to give up when answers aren't immediate.
4. Pray for others. Your prayers can be the catalyst for healing and transformation in the lives of those around you.
5. Listen for God's voice. Like Elijah hearing the sound of rain before any clouds appeared, attune your spiritual ears to what God is saying.

The story of Elijah challenges us to a deeper, more persistent life of prayer. It reminds us that prayer is not a passive activity but a dynamic partnership with Almighty God. As we bring our prayers, God brings His power! As we persist in faith, breakthroughs come!

**Grace & Peace!**

Pastor Ron

# Devotions

## Devo #1

# The Power of Partnering with God

## 1 Kings 18:36-39

Elijah's entire story reminds us of the incredible partnership God desires to have with His people. Just as Elijah worked in tandem with God to bring about miraculous events, we too are called into a Divine partnership. Reflect on how God might be inviting you to partner with Him in your daily life. Are there areas where you've been trying to go it alone, forgetting that God wants to work alongside you? Consider how your prayers, actions, and faith can align with God's purposes. Remember, we bring the prayer, and God brings the power.

Today, commit to viewing your life through the lens of partnership with God, and watch how it transforms your perspective and actions. God wants to use your prayers and actions to bring something good into somebody's life.



# Devo #2

## Passionate Prayer

### James 5:16-18

The fervent prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Elijah's passionate prayers brought both drought and rain, demonstrating the impact our earnest petitions can have. Today, examine the passion behind your own prayers. Have they become routine or lackluster or non-existent? God responds to hearts that seek Him earnestly. Consider what issues in your life, community, or world need fervent prayer. Approach God with renewed zeal, believing that He hears and responds to your prayers. Remember, it's not about eloquence but about pouring your heart out to God. Let your prayers be fueled by a deep desire to see God's will done on earth as it is in heaven. Your prayers could possibly be the difference in helping someone find forgiveness and healing.



# Devo #3

## Perseverance in the Face of Silence

### 1 Kings 18:41-44

Elijah's persistence in prayer, even when there was no immediate sign of rain, teaches us a valuable lesson about perseverance. Often, we may feel like our prayers are hitting a ceiling, with no response in sight. Yet, like Elijah who sent his servant seven times to look for clouds, we're called to keep praying, keep seeking, and keep knocking. Reflect on areas in your life where you've been tempted to give up praying. What would it look like to adopt a "go again" mentality in your prayer life? Remember, delays are not denials. God's timing is perfect, and our role is to persist in faith. Today, commit to persevering in prayer for that seemingly impossible situation, trusting that God is working even when we can't see it.



# Devo #4

## Hearing God's Voice in a Noisy World

### John 10:1-5

Before the rain came, Elijah heard the " sound of abundance of rain" when there wasn't a cloud in the sky. This spiritual hearing shaped his actions and prayers. In our noisy world, hearing God's voice can be challenging. Yet, it's crucial for our faith journey. Today, practice intentional silence and listening. Reflect on how you might be drowning out God's voice with busyness or distractions. Are there words or promises God has spoken to you that you need to hold onto, even when circumstances seem contrary? Remember, in God's kingdom, we hear before we see. Cultivate a listening heart, trusting that God still speaks to His people today. Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice." Take some time to listen! What Jesus says has the power to change everything!



# Devo #5

## Being God's Ambassador

### 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

We are placed in various situations - our jobs, families, communities - to be God's Ambassadors. Just as Elijah represented God in a time of national crisis, we too are called to represent Christ. Reflect on the environments God has placed you in. How can you be a more effective ambassador for Christ in these places? Consider how your actions, words, and attitudes reflect God's character to those around you. Remember, you may be the only Bible some people ever read. Today, pray for opportunities to shine God's light into those around you, and for the courage & wisdom to seize those moments when they come. You are strategically placed by God for His purposes - embrace your role as His Ambassador with joy and purpose. God is up to something good. Jesus wants to use you in a powerful way!

ambassador

# Questions for Thought

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- 01 How can we develop a stronger partnership with God in our daily lives, similar to Elijah's relationship with Him?

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- 02 In what areas of your life do you need to cultivate more passion in your prayers, and how might that change your approach to challenges?

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- 03 How can we discern between our own desires and God's voice when we think we 'hear' something from Him?

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- 04 What does it mean to 'pray through' a situation, and how can we cultivate the perseverance needed for this kind of prayer?

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- 05 How might our lives change if we truly believed that our prayers could release healing and forgiveness for others?

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- 06 In what ways can we be 'ambassadors' for God in our workplaces, schools, or communities, and how does prayer play a role in this?

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- 07 How can we maintain faith and continue praying when we don't see immediate results or answers?

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- 08 What does it mean to pray with 'fervency,' and how can we cultivate this quality in our prayer lives?

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- 09 How does the concept of 'hearing before seeing' in the spiritual realm challenge our faith and our approach to prayer?

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- 10 In what situations have you experienced a 'season of delay' in your prayers, and how did you persevere through it?

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# Additional Scriptures

For Further Study

# Additional Scriptures

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon:

1. 1 Kings 18:38-46
  2. James 5:16-18
  3. Revelation 3:20 - Jesus knocking at the door
  4. 2 Kings 13:14-19 - Elisha, King Joash and the arrows
  5. Luke 11:5-10 - persistence in prayer
  6. Luke 18:1-8 - the persistent widow
  7. 2 Corinthians 5:7 - "walk by faith, not by sight"
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**Themes discussed with suggested relevant verses (may want to read the surrounding verses, too):**

## **1. Partnership with God:**

- 1 Corinthians 3:9 - "co-workers with God"
- 2 Corinthians 6:1 - "co-workers with God"

## **2. Passionate prayer:**

- Romans 12:11 - "Never be lacking in zeal"
- Colossians 4:2 - "Devote yourselves to prayer"

## **3. Perseverance in prayer:**

- Luke 18:1 - Pray and don't lose heart
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - "Pray continually"

## **5. Hearing God's voice:**

- John 10:27 - "My sheep hear My voice"
- Romans 10:17 - "faith comes by hearing"



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