

WARM-UP

- When you're faced with uncertainties or bad news, how do you usually respond?
- When you feel tired, what do you usually do to regain strength?
- Who do you often look to for help? What makes that person dependable?

WORD ⁹*There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"* ¹⁰*He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."*

1 KINGS 19:9-10

(Read also **1 KINGS 19**.)

After the reign of Solomon, the kings of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. God set apart Elijah and used him as a prophet to confront some of these rulers, but not without great challenges. As a result of his obedience to the Lord, Elijah's life was on the line and he felt like the end was near for him. But God reminded Elijah of what was true in the midst of his distress—God is great and good. Today, let's get insights from God's faithfulness to restore Elijah so that he may go and speak God's truth, even in the face of death.

1 | Obeying God does not exempt us from difficulties.

¹Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." ³Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. **1 KINGS 19:1-3**

Elijah rose against the evil rulers of his time and performed miraculous signs, proving that God is above all. But when they threatened to kill him, he was *afraid* and *ran for his life*. From being bold, Elijah became so anxious and distraught that he asked God to take his life because he thought that he was the only one left who believed in God. Even when we obey God, we will face challenges. When life becomes overwhelming, it may seem easier to give up and even wallow in sadness. But God is with us and works in our hearts in the midst of our challenges and pain. Have you experienced circumstances that seemed to overshadow God's promise for your life? What happened?

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2 | Despite our difficult situations, God's word and presence positions our hearts to have faith in Him.

⁷And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." . . . ¹²And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. ¹³And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

1 KINGS 19:7, 12-13

As Elijah was hiding, God came to him. Twice, He told Elijah to rest and provided food for him to regain his strength. In God's holy presence, Elijah eventually told Him all his concerns. God tended to Elijah throughout his physical, mental, and emotional struggles. God showed His power and reminded Elijah that He was there for him. When we become vulnerable before God, His presence comforts us and His word aligns our hearts to His so that we can trust Him again. Recall a time when God brought you through a difficult time. How did He restore your faith and confidence in Him?

3 Faith enables us to obey and pursue God's purposes for us.

¹⁵And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. . . . ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him." ¹⁹So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat . . . **1 KINGS 19:15, 18-19**

When God restored Elijah, He also reinforced his calling. God sent him a helper, Elisha, and told him that there are still 7,000 who are faithful to Him so that he wouldn't feel alone. At the word of the Lord, Elijah again obeyed. Though Elijah resisted what God was doing at first, God still entrusted this responsibility to him. Even in our weakness, God builds our faith and enables us to pursue His purpose for our lives. What has God called you to do in this season? How has He sustained you and built your faith as you have obeyed His call?

APPLICATION

- Are there areas in your life where you feel isolated and anxious? How does putting your faith in God help bring healing to those areas?
- Is God calling you to do something that seems impossible? How may you move forward in faith instead of fear?
- Who can you encourage with the lessons you've learned this week? How can you share God's crazy faithfulness to him or her?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His presence, care, and power in our lives. Thank Him for giving us faith to navigate through life's difficulties.
- Ask God to restore every broken area of your life. Pray that God would help you draw closer to Him even in moments of weakness.
- Pray for God to surround you with godly people as you fulfill His purpose for your life.



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