

Disciple's Quest

If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.

John 8:31

August 19, 2018

Spiritual Failure

1 Kings 19

Main idea:

There are no super Christians. Every Believer occasionally experiences times of spiritual discouragement, often unexpected, that can lead to disappointing failure. Today we will examine the spiritual failure that overtook Elijah following the great victory on Mount Carmel so that we can learn how to avoid it when possible, and better persevere when it does overtake us.

Outline

- 1) Three myths about the Believer and spiritual failure
 - a. Spiritual failure is always the product of some "spectacular" kind of sin
 - b. It takes a while to sink deeply into spiritual failure
 - c. Spiritual failure is only a problem for the spiritually weak
- 2) Three symptoms of spiritual failure
 - a. Fear
 - b. Retreat
 - c. Self-centeredness/self-pity
- 3) Three causes of spiritual failure
 - a. Success
 - b. Fatigue
 - c. Impatience / short-sightedness

Questions for further contemplation and application following the message:

1) Do you find Elijah's rapid descent into spiritual failure surprising?

Why are we sometimes prone to falter spiritually after "mountaintop experiences"?

Formulate a strategy to help guard against unexpectedly stumbling into failure especially during times of spiritual prosperity. Make certain to incorporate Scripture passages like 1 Corinthians 10;12-13; 1 Peter 1:13-16; Ephesians 6:10-18, etc.

2) Why is fear such a certain indicator of spiritual failure?

Make a list of Scripture passages that speak to the needlessness of our being overtaken by fear as Christians (Romans 8;28-39, etc.).

3) How (and where) does the Bible speak to the danger of spiritual and physical fatigue?

How did Jesus combat fatigue? See Mark 1:35; 6:45-46; Luke 5:16.

4) What can we learn about trusting in the sovereignty of God from Elijah's failure to do so on the occasion recorded in 1 Kings 19?