

Unstoppable Persistent Faith

Have you ever felt like you're waiting endlessly for God to answer your prayers? The story of Elijah and the drought teaches us powerful lessons about faith, persistence, and how to trust God when circumstances seem unchanged.

What Does True Faith Look Like in Difficult Times?

The prophet Elijah had boldly declared to King Ahab that rain would come after three years of drought. Yet when he made this declaration, there wasn't a cloud in the sky. The ground remained parched, streams had dried up, and there was no natural indication that rain was approaching.

Despite this, Elijah confidently proclaimed, "I hear the sound of an abundance of rain." He heard it not with his physical ears, but in his spirit. He perceived what God was about to do before there was any visible evidence.

This is what genuine faith looks like - believing what God has promised before seeing any natural confirmation. As Scripture tells us, everything visible came from the invisible realm. Faith operates in this unseen realm, perceiving what God is doing before it manifests physically.

How Do We Persist When Nothing Seems to Change?

After declaring rain was coming, Elijah didn't simply make his announcement and walk away. Instead:

- He positioned himself for focus - bowing down with his face between his knees
- He actively looked for confirmation - sending his servant to check the horizon
- He refused to accept negative reports - sending his servant back seven times
- He remained expectant despite delayed results

When the servant returned six times with nothing to report, Elijah didn't waver. He simply said, "Go again." This persistence reveals something crucial about faith - it doesn't take no for an answer.

Many of us give up after the first or second disappointment. We make excuses: "Maybe it's not God's will" or "Perhaps I misunderstood." But Elijah knew God's timing and refused to abandon his faith position.

Why Does God Value Our "Little" Contributions?

The seventh time the servant returned, he reported seeing only "a cloud as small as a man's hand." This tiny indication might have seemed insignificant to most people, but to Elijah, it was confirmation that God was moving.

Throughout Scripture, we see God using small things to accomplish great purposes:

- A boy's lunch feeding thousands
- Moses' simple rod delivering Israel
- A widow's last bit of oil and flour sustaining her family

We often disqualify ourselves by focusing on how little we have to offer. The widow told Elijah, "I do not have bread," yet in the next breath mentioned she had flour and oil to make bread. She had minimized what she possessed because it seemed insignificant.

God doesn't need much from us - He just needs our willingness to offer what we have. As Jesus said, faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains. Stop undermining what you have and start thinking big concerning your little.

How Should We Respond When Faith Is Tested?

When Elijah received word about the tiny cloud, his response was immediate and bold. He didn't say, "Well, let's wait and see if it develops." Instead, he confidently told the king to prepare his chariot because heavy rain was coming.

This boldness came from absolute conviction. Elijah wasn't just hoping or wishing - he was fully expecting what God had promised. And sure enough, the sky quickly grew black with clouds, and heavy rain fell.

Faith speaks with confidence about what God has promised before it fully manifests. It doesn't wait for complete evidence before believing. As Romans 8:14 reminds us, "Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God." We follow God's word, not our feelings or circumstances.

What's the Difference Between Faith and Hoping?

Many people confuse faith with hoping or wishing. Here's the difference:

- Hoping says, "I was believing" when things don't work out
- Faith has no "was" - it continues believing regardless of circumstances
- Hoping falls apart when things don't go as expected
- Faith says "look again" when faced with disappointment

Faith isn't about waiting to see something before believing it. Anyone can believe after seeing. True faith believes before seeing any evidence.

Life Application

The story of Elijah challenges us to examine our own faith. Are we quickly discouraged when we don't see immediate results, or do we persist in believing God's promises?

This week, identify one area where you need to see God move in your life. Instead of focusing on how impossible the situation seems, ask yourself:

- What has God already promised me about this situation in His Word?
- Am I speaking words of faith or words of doubt about this need?
- What "little" do I already have that God might want to multiply?
- Am I actively looking for God's answer, or have I given up expecting?

Remember, faith expects. It has a confident expectation that what it believes will come to pass. Don't wait to see it to believe it - believe it before you see it.

When doubt tries to overwhelm you, stand firm on God's Word. Speak your faith boldly. Like Elijah, you may need to declare "Go again" multiple times before seeing your breakthrough, but persistence in faith always brings God's promises to pass.

What area of your life needs you to say "Go again" today?

Quotes

1. "I hear the sound of an abundance of rain."

2. "Faith doesn't take no for an answer."
3. "Faith expects. Faith prepares for what's coming. Faith doesn't sit around hoping and wishing—that's what doubt and unbelief do. Faith believes. Faith fully expects. Faith is convinced."
4. "Elijah was a man with a nature just like ours—he had to deal with thoughts of doubt and unbelief attacking his mind."
5. "The Lord doesn't need much. He just needs a little. And He can do much with your little. Stop undermining what you have. Start thinking big concerning your little. When you look at your little, don't just see lack—see potential. See God do something mighty with it. That's faith. That's what faith does."
6. "How many miracles do we miss because what we have seems too small or insignificant? How often do we overlook the miracle in our midst—just because we underestimate what's already in our hands?"
7. "Stop underestimating what you have and what God can do with it. He can work miracles with your little."
8. "Faith doesn't need a tracking number to know when the answer will arrive. Your mind may want one, but a heart of faith doesn't require it."
9. "Faith is of the heart, not the head. Your head may be screaming one thing, but listen to the faith in your heart. That's what you follow."
10. "You have to decide that the faith in your heart will override the doubt and unbelief in your head. That's how you fight the good fight of faith."
11. "We won't be led by feelings, flesh, or the reports of others. We believe the report of the Lord. We believe the Word of God."
12. "Faith has no 'was' in it. There's no 'was' in faith—faith is."
13. "Hoping and wishing fall apart when things don't go as planned. But faith doesn't fall apart—faith says, 'Look again.'"

14. "Anyone can believe after they see it. But it takes faith to believe before you see it. Believe it before you see it."

15. "What He has done for you belongs to you now. This is your moment to take, by faith, what is already yours—no matter how it looks, feels, or what others say."

Verses

1. 1 Kings 18:41

2. James 5:17

3. Romans 8:14

4. Hebrews 11

5. 1 Peter 2:24

6. 1 Corinthians 12

Summary

The story of Elijah during Israel's drought offers powerful insights into maintaining faith during prolonged waiting periods. When Elijah declared rain would come after three years of drought, there wasn't a single cloud in the sky, yet he confidently proclaimed, 'I hear the sound of an abundance of rain.' This exemplifies genuine faith—believing what God has promised before seeing any natural confirmation. Elijah's persistence demonstrates how to maintain faith when circumstances remain unchanged. He positioned himself for focus by bowing with his face between his knees, actively looked for confirmation by sending his servant to check the horizon, and refused to accept negative reports, sending his servant back seven times. When the servant finally spotted a cloud as small as a man's hand, Elijah recognized this tiny indication as confirmation of God's movement. Throughout Scripture, God consistently uses small things to accomplish great purposes, reminding us not to disqualify ourselves by focusing on how little we have to offer. The difference between faith and merely hoping is significant. Hoping says, 'I was believing' when things don't work out, while faith has no 'was'—it continues believing regardless of circumstances. Faith speaks with confidence about what God has promised before it fully manifests and doesn't wait for complete evidence before believing. To apply this in our lives, we must identify areas where we need God to move, focus on His promises rather

than impossibilities, speak words of faith instead of doubt, recognize what 'little' we already have that God might multiply, and actively look for God's answer rather than giving up.