# *Reedy Fork Baptist Church*

## *Wednesday, November 4, 2026*

### BIBLE STUDY

## Theme: *" Let Us Pray" Part 3 – "Pray For Our Nation"*

## *SCRIPTURE: James 5:17-18*

**I.** **17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.**
18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

**Key Words:**

- Human nature
- Spiritual Elite
- Struggles
- Prayer
- Earnestly
- Motive
- Doubt

**II. People, Places, & Times:**

**1.** James

**2.** Elijah

**3.** King Ahab

**4.** Queen Jezebel

**III. Background:**
James 5:17–18 uses the prophet Elijah to show that ordinary believers have access to powerful, effective prayer.

## IV. In Depth:

### *1. Lesson Emphasis: 1 The Humanity of the Intercessor (v. 17a)*

**A.** The Greek term (homoiopathēs): Elijah shared the same human nature, limitations, frailties, and feelings as us.

**B.** No spiritual elite: Elijah was a mighty prophet, yet he was not a superhuman or a different species of saint.

**C.** Real struggles: He faced real-life fear, exhaustion, and depression (e.g., 1 Kings 19).

**D.** Application: God does not require you to be a flawless spiritual giant to hear and answer your prayers.

### *2. Lesson Emphasis: 2 The Earnestness of the Prayer (vv. 17b–18a)*

**A.** "Prayed earnestly": Literally translates to "prayed with prayer"—indicating real, heartfelt, persistent engagement rather than a casual wish.

**B.** Aligned with God's will: Elijah's prayer wasn't for selfish pride, but to confront idolatry (Baal) and call Israel back to God.

**C.** Measurable impact:
His intercession directly caused a physical drought lasting three years and six months (1 Kings 17–18).

**D.** Application: True prayer requires sincerity, focus, and a heart tuned to God's purposes.

### *3. Lesson Emphasis: 3 Lesson Emphasis:3 The Power and Provision of God (v. 18b)*

**A.** The second prayer:
After the time of judgment, Elijah prayed again for rain.

**B.** Immediate response:
The heavens opened, and the earth brought forth its fruit.

**C.** The real source of power:
The strength is not in the "merit of man," but in the grace and responsiveness of God.

**D.** Application: God delights in answering His children and changing circumstances through prayer.

## V. Make It Happen

1. Relating to Elijah: Why is it tempting to think that people in the Bible (like Elijah) had a "special hotline" to God that we don't? How does knowing he had a "nature like ours" change your view of prayer?

2. What does "earnest prayer" look like?: How can we move our prayer life from casual requests to earnest, persistent intercession?

3. Checking motives: Elijah prayed to turn the nation's heart back to God. How should our current personal prayers align with God's character and kingdom?

4. Overcoming doubt: What situation in your life right now do you need to surrender to God in earnest prayer, trusting that He still works powerfully today?

## VI. Follow the Spirit:

What will you do as a result of this lesson?