

The background is an abstract composition of layered elements. It features a textured, painterly style with various shades of blue and teal. Overlaid on this are large, sweeping red and dark blue curved shapes that create a sense of movement and depth. On the right side, there are several overlapping geometric shapes, including triangles and rectangles, some of which are outlined in black, giving the impression of a complex architectural or structural design.

Fighting the Fear That You Won't Have Enough

November 11, 2018 | WONDERFUL MERCY CHURCH

Poverty, Fear, and Enslavement

- 1 Kings 17:8-16
- The spirit of poverty is the fear that you won't have enough. Ever.
- This mindset tells us that there is a finite pie for everyone; one person's prospering means less for you in the long run
- There's an inherent belief that somewhere down the road, someone else's success takes away from your chance to succeed

Be Obedient to God's Direction

- **1 Kings 17:9** NLT
“Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. I have instructed a widow there to feed you.”
- Lesson: be where the Lord wants you to be even when it doesn't make sense, seems strange

Keep Your Eyes on God, Not on Your Provisions

- The widow's outlook: a few sticks, a little flour, and then we'll die
- This is the result of the spirit of poverty: we become resigned to death, to the belief things will never get better, there'll never be enough

Let God Set the Priorities

- Scripture startles us sometimes, as in verse 13, where Elijah essentially says to the starving, dying widow, “Me first. Feed me first!”
- The widow has a choice: insane obedience or death
- The little thing we do—*after all, what’s a little flour?*—turns out to be huge in God’s upside down kingdom
- Mark 12:41-44

Know That God Has a Plan

- For the one whose brook has dried up
- **1 Kings 17:7** NLT
“But after a while the brook dried up, for there was no rainfall anywhere in the land.”
- God’s plan may remove you from your comfort zone

Watchman Nee

- “Because of our proneness to look at the bucket and forget the fountain, God has frequently to change His means of supply to keep our eyes fixed on the source. So the heavens that once sent us welcome showers become as brass, the streams that refreshed us are allowed to dry up, and the ravens that brought our daily food visit us no longer; but then God surprises us by meeting our needs through a poor widow, and so we prove the marvelous resources of God.”

[Watchman Nee, *The Normal Christian Church Life*]

Fighting the Fear of Not Having Enough

- Be obedient to God's direction
- Keep your eyes on God, not on your provisions
- Let God set the priorities
- Know that God has a plan



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