

# God Uses it All // The Elements are teh Evidence

Read 1 Kings 18:36-40

Read Hebrews 11:1

In 1 Kings the people have been dealing with a drought for 3 years. God did not start the drought, but He is about to bring something's to the surface through His man, the prophet Elijah. Because at some point its time to stop dealing with a drought and it is time to be delivered from the drought.

This resonates with me deeply because it is a work the Lord has been dealing with in my life. And I feel as though He moved me to take us on this journey together as a church. Because to blaze new trails you have to be willing to battle through old demons. For me it goes something like this:

I remember the feelings more than I remember the facts. I was in high school because we were in our home where my room was upstairs. I remember laying down to go to bed, and my mind racing and my body shaking. Death was consuming my mind.

One day its coming and your life will be over.

You're going to die young.

I remember crying and running down stairs to my mom and saying I am scared to die.

We talked, I went upstairs, and I eventually shook it.

For the next 14-16 years of my life, this would become an off again and on again experience.

One I attempted to escape with every effort I could muster up.

One I asked God to remove with every eloquent phrase I could mentally make up.

And this year, what I had learned to deal with came to the surface. What I had learned to accept God made clear it was time to attack. It was a moment in February. I preached on Sunday, we went out to lunch with friends, came home, rested, and got ready for bed and out of no where that old demonic attack began to bubble up to the surface. I couldn't stop my brain, my stomach was turning over in my body, my skin was on fire, I couldn't stop shaking, the lies of the enemy were taunting me you can't escape this, your faith is pretend. Finally after a couple of hours I was able to get to sleep. I woke up the next morning and Lex and I decided to go workout. I went to the Sauna for an hour and began to finally talk to God about this. My wife had initiated this idea. I for so long had just asked God

to remove this from my life, but I don't know if I had just ever sat with Him and talked about it. I meditated on this reality, "God, my faith feels like pretending and I don't understand why this problem can't be removed." And God start to lead me to the word contend in scripture and I spent an hour journaling, studying, and listening. And I realized this...

God will allow something's to come to the surface that He did not start so that He can prove Himself faithful. God will allow something's not to be removed because you are called to resist them and He is going to prove Himself faithful. But make no mistake about it when God lets it come to the surface

ITS TIME TO BE DELIVERED

ITS TIME TO CONTEND

ITS TIME TO SEE GOD PROVE HIMSELF FAITHFUL

ITS TIME FOR RAIN

God comes to Elijah and says I am sending rain! Its time!

So God's representative finds Obadaiah.

Now Obadiah is you and me in the story. Elijah is like God. God shows up to deliver His Obadaiah's from the droughts that have been caused by the false prophets. Obadiah is just on his way and God's representative shows up to say its time. It's time to be delivered from the drought. Go tell Ahab, the king responsible for the broken beliefs that led to this drought. Do tell him, I AM HERE.

Isn't this interesting...

That when its time for deliverance, when its time to face the thing that has been broken that fear can be our first response?

Obadiah was faithful. Obadiah had hid people. Fear shouldn't be his first response, but it is. It's real. It's human. It's honest.

What if what you were sent here to end, ends me?

What if I trust, and it doesn't happen?

What if I give you my life, and it was pretend?

What if I believe, and I am let down?

THIS IS GONNA TAKE ME OUT. HOW CAN I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU?

Even though the drought is deadly confronting what caused it can be daunting because at least

comfort is predictable, but contending.... I don't know what is going to happen

But God sent me to encourage you

SURELY HE WILL PRESENT HIMSELF

SURELY HE WILL SHOW UP

SURELY HE WILL DELIVER

SURELY YOU CAN TRUST HIM

So watch Ahab comes up and Ahab says troubler of Israel

Ahab, the king who allowed Baal worship to be systematically organized, Baal the God of storms, the agricultural God who he had built temples to, and who people had been trusting in for rain, Ahab comes up and accuses God's man. He says its his fault.

The enemy stops us from contending because He brings accusations against God.

Tee ball foul ball

God can clear the record. He has words that bring faith. The greatest advocate, God, is constantly being accused in culture and in conversation and in the thoughts we consider, but the facts can clear the record.

Divided trust lead to this drought.

And that is why Elijah employs his classic challenge when its time for the battle: How long will you falter between two opinions. If the Lord is God, follow Him, but if Baal, follow him.

Hear me friend, this may be the greatest revelation I can give you today. I talked with Cere the next week as Lex and I processed through what the Lord was teaching me, and he made the statement, you have to believe what you say you really believe.

If you are going to experience deliverance, you must decide.

Graham and snake

This is the picture of the people... Faltering between two places.

Look at this observation I found in my study this week

"The brilliance of Elijah's language lies in the accusation of indecision masquerading as balance."

At some point you must decide, I really believe. And it's time for a showdown. I will, by faith, be more than a conqueror through Christ Jesus.

Elijah bets and boasts on God

Don't gamble your money but go all in on God.

You can BOAST IN GOD

My God will come through

Anxiety where is your power

Death where is your sting

How about Romans 8

surely this can't separate me. MY GOD IS GOOD

Re-establish your worship

Reflect on His promises

Remember who you are

RE means backwards

Sometimes I gotta go back to go forward

Either parenting circling back around

Or my dad with Cory Hagan. When I circle back around... I see it right. I can anticipate better because I am not working from a burden. I am working from a blessing.

Attention vs Anticipation

God do you not see me

Vs

God I can't wait to see you show up

HE LICKED IT UP // GOD WON'T WASTE ANY OF IT

Run the risk // What was sent stop me will be a stage of how God showed up for me. And I will keep struggling through it because my God will surely snatch up every false prophet that came against me.

