

Biblical Faith - Week 3

Dealing with Desperate Situations (Elijah) Part 1

1 Kings 17:1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word." 2 Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: 3 "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. 4 You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there." 5 So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

- As we begin this journey we will see that God uses the trials of life to show not just His **power**, but His **provision** for those who are willing to follow.
- God wants us to be **interdependent** with Him and each other.
- Baal was the god of **rain** and fertility.
- God is going to deal with **national** apostasy in Israel.
- God looks for **special** people for difficult situations.

Trials:

1. Reveal our **helplessness**
2. Can be **distressing**
3. Come in different **forms** according to your need
4. Are not an **elective** in life, they are a required course.

Life can be hard and should cause us to not only seek God, but to respond to Him in **faith**.

Several truths about faith:

1. Faith trusts God's **ability** to take us through the storms.
2. Faith looks **above** the circumstances.
3. Faith reveals who we are (or whose we are). Trials, then, **reveal** what you are.

- Sometimes you have to **believe** (trust in cling to rely on) God even if it takes longer than you want.
- God not only **controls** the rain, but the birds of the air.
- God controls the **natural** order of life.
- One thing I see about Elijah was that while he waited three and a half years, and he did it with **contentment**.

Four truths we should learn now:

1. We have to be **willing** to allow God to set us aside if He chooses.
2. God's direction includes God's **provision**.
Entitlement is never satisfied with just enough to live on.
Sometimes our boll weevils of life have to jolt us out of our **comfort zones** to see what God has planned and His provision.
3. We, like Elijah, have to **trust** God one day at a time.
4. A dried up brook is often a sign of God's **pleasure**, not His displeasure.

Final Thoughts

- What is your dried up brook moment?

- Have you **desperately** needed God lately?

- Are you taking God at His **word** as you wait on Him?

Four obstacles that must be overcome in every believer's life:

- **Pride**
- **Fear**
- Resentments
- Bad Habits