FAITH IN FEAR
PERSONAL STUDY
Week 10 — "Faith That Carries On."

PASTOR INTRODUCTION
Friends we have made it. This is our final week of "Faith in Fear." We have walked through Elijah's life and seen so many ups and downs along the way and throughout his vital ministry. He has now been taken up by a whirlwind into heaven and now we look at what happens next. Because the story doesn't end with his departure but it goes on through Elisha - who has just watched his dear friend leave. At this point he has lost his teacher, his mentor, and the prophet he has followed. But as he looks back toward the Jordan, he sees something lying there. Elijah's cloak.

Read II Kings 2:13-15.

He picks it up and returns to the Jordan. He strikes the water and asks:

"Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?"

The waters divide and the sons of the prophets watching from a distance recognize what has happened. They say:

"The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha."

Something has changed. Elijah is gone and Elisha's time has begun.

Take note, Elisha does not become Elijah. He doesn't have to copy him or become somebody totally different. God has prepared Elisha to continue the work in his own place and through his own calling.

And that is something we should be mindful of, too. There are times when we wonder what will happen when someone leaves, when that season ends, or when something we have relied upon changes. We may even start to question and to declare: "How on earth can we carry on without them?"

But as we have already talked about in this series, God's work is bigger than any one person. The people who teach us, lead us, encourage us, and shape our lives matter deeply. We should be thankful for them. But, ultimately, our faith is not in them. Our faith is in the One True God.

So as we finish this series, think about this question.

What does it look like to trust God and carry on when a season of our lives comes to an end?

Elijah's story ended. But God's work carried on.

The same is true for us. Faith is trusting that the Lord will carry on with His work, even when our part in it changes.

THE RUNDOWN

TEXT II Kings 2:13-15

THEME Trusting God when our role or season changes.
Faith is trusting God even when things are different.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why can it be hard when something important comes to an end?

_____

_____

_____

What makes you wonder whether things will continue when someone important is no longer there or alongside you?

_____

_____

_____

What does Elisha's question, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" reveal about where his confidence is?

_____
_____
_____

What does this passage teach us about God's work continuing beyond one person?

_____
_____
_____

How is Elisha's calling connected to Elijah's without requiring Elisha to simply become Elijah 2.0?

_____
_____
_____

Are there people, roles, or circumstances you have relied on more than God?

_____
_____
_____

Prayer Requests

This is not just an opportunity to learn God's Word, but also for us to support one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. If you have any prayer requests, please reach out at anytime.

Questions

If something comes up that you would like further clarification on, please let me know. I would be happy to help and discuss them with you.