

FAITH IN FEAR

PERSONAL STUDY

Week Three – “When God Seems Silent.”

PASTOR INTRODUCTION

Welcome to week three of “Faith in Fear.” So far, we have followed Elijah as God called him to step into uncertainty, and then we say what happened when fear actually took over. Indeed, we just saw that Elijah was not some superhero of faith who never struggled. He was a faithful servant of God who became exhausted, discouraged, and afraid. And yet, when he had reached his lowest point, God did not abandon him. Rather, He cared for him.

Now we are going to continue in that same moment of Elijah’s life. Now he finds himself alone on a mountain, wondering where God is and what God is actually doing.

Read I Kings 19:9-18.

God asks a very simple question.

“What are you doing here, Elijah?”

He responds by telling God that everything has gone wrong. He has been faithful while Israel turned away from God. Prophets have been killed and Elijah genuinely believes that he is the only one left.

Have you ever felt that way? Have you ever looked at a situation and said:

“God, I am trying to do what is right. So why is this happening?”

“God, where are You?”

“God, why aren’t You doing anything?”

We know that God exists but sometimes the hardest part of faith is trusting Him when we can't see what He is doing.
This is precisely where Elijah finds himself.

God then tells him to stand on a mountain as things begin to take an interesting turn.

There is a powerful wind. An earthquake. A Fire.

But God wasn't in any of those things.

He comes, instead, in a low whisper.

Elijah had been looking for God in the dramatic. The Lord, however, had other ideas. His prophet needed to learn that His presence is not determined by how much we can see happening. And perhaps even more importantly than that he needed to hear that he wasn't alone.

God tells Elijah that he has preserved 7,000 people in Israel who have not bowed down to Baal.

Elijah couldn't see that but it was evident that God was still at work!

THE RUNDOWN

TEXT I Kings 19:9-18

THEME Trusting God when we cannot see what He is doing.
Faith is not trusting God because we understand the plan.
Faith is trusting God because we know He is faithful.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Have you experienced a time when God's presence seemed distant or His answer seemed unclear?

Why do you think God asks Elijah: "What are you doing here?"

Does this passage mean that God only works through quiet or ordinary things? Why or why not?

What does Elijah's belief that he is alone reveal about what we can and cannot see about God's work?

Where might God already be working in ways I simply cannot see?

How does know that God is faithful change the way I approach the uncertainties of life?

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.