

FAITH IN FEAR

PERSONAL STUDY

Week Four – “Faith In The Fire”

PASTOR INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our fourth week of “Faith in Fear.” We have already seen some very different sides of Elijah. We have seen him trust in the Lord when he was called into uncertainty. We have seen become overwhelmed by fear. And last time, we saw Elijah struggling because he could not see what God was doing.

Tonight, we step back into the story and look at one of the most famous moments in all his ministry: his confrontation with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.

Read I Kings 18:20-40.

He stands in front of the king. He stands in front of the people of Israel. And he challenges the prophets of Baal.

But before we get to the fire, we should revisit what Elijah says to the people:

“How long will you go limping between two different opinions?”

Israel had a problem. They knew about the Lord. They had been called to worship Him but they were also turning toward Baal and trusting in the gods of the people around them.

Essentially, they wanted both. But Elijah is basically telling them - ‘You need to decide who you are going to put your trust in.’

That question still gets posed today. And rightly so because it is relevant. We may not worship Baal and bow down at the feet of statues. However, there are lots of things that compete for our trust, our attention, and our allegiance.

We can say that we trust God while putting our ultimate trust in money. And we can worship Him on a Sunday while allowing the opinions of everyone around us to determine how we live for the other six days of the week!

In fact, sometimes the question isn't whether we believe in God - but it is whether we actually trust Him or not.

Elijah then sets up this extraordinary test.

The prophets of Baal cry out to their god. They shout, dance, plead, and do everything they can to get Baal to answer. But nothing happens.

Then Elijah prays. And his prayer is remarkably simple. He doesn't need to manipulate God or convince God to show up. He just asks God to reveal Himself so that His people might know that He really is God. And He answers. Fire falls from heaven.

It must have been an exciting and spectacular scene. But it's not just a fire that is happening here. Israel had been taught a lesson. They had been reminded that there is only one true God.

Elijah had trusted because he knew exactly who God was. And that is something we can all take to heart.

THE RUNDOWN

TEXT I Kings 18:20-40

THEME Standing firm when everyone around is going elsewhere.
Faith is now knowing exactly how God will act.
Faith is knowing who God is.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Are there any areas of my life where I am trying to follow God while also putting my trust in something else?

What things compete for my trust, attention, or allegiance today?

Elijah stood almost completely alone. When have I found it hard to stand firm in my faith because of people around me?

What do the actions of Baal's prophets and Elijah's prayer teach me about God's character and the way I should approach Him?

Where am I currently being asked to trust God without knowing what the outcome will actually be?

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.