FAITH IN FEAR
PERSONAL STUDY
Week Five — "Faith That Waits"

PASTOR INTRODUCTION
Welcome to week five of "Faith in Fear." Last time out, we saw one of the most dramatic moments in all of Elijah's ministry. He stood on Mount Carmel and challenged the prophets of Baal. The Lord answered his prayer with fire from heaven, and the people were taught a very important lesson. The Lord is God!

Now that the fire has fallen and the people have seen God's power, there is one thing that still remains. The drought. For three years, there had been no rain in Israel - what's the big deal we might say in Southern California - but now God tells Elijah that rain is coming.

Read I Kings 18:41-46.

Elijah tells Ahab to go eat and drink because the sound of a mighty rain is coming. But there is none. Elijah sends his servant to look toward the sea, and he comes back and says that he sees nothing. Elijah sends him back. Same result. And so it would happen seven times. Finally, the servant sees a tiny cloud - about the size of a man's hand. That is it. Yet Elijah knows that God is about to do what He had promised.

There is a lesson in there somewhere, isn't there?! Faith doesn't always mean seeing the whole answer. Sometimes faith means trusting God when all we see is a tiny little cloud on the horizon. And we can become impatient. We want answers and results, right now. We want to see the full picture before we are willing to take the next step.

Elijah didn't have the full picture. He had a promise from God and that was enough for him.

Friends, what does it look like to trust God while we are waiting for Him to fulfill His promises?

Think about Elijah. Think about what is going on in your life. Where are you waiting? Where are you tempted to give up because you cannot see anything happening.

As you contemplate that, remember this. Faith does not require us to see the entire picture. Faith trusts our God who does.

THE RUNDOWN

TEXT I Kings 18:41-46

THEME Trusting God while we wait for His promises.
Faith is not seeing the full picture.
Faith is trusting the God who knows all.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Where am I currently waiting on God?
What makes this a challenge for me?

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Elijah trusted God's promise before he could see any evidence of rain. Do I find it easier to trust Him when I can see Him working?

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The servant reported that he saw nothing six times. How do I respond when I do not see the answer/progress I am hoping for?

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What promises do I need to remember in the waiting?

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Am I tempted to measure God's faithfulness by what I can see happening? What would it look like to trust His character instead?

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The first sign of God's answer was just a tiny cloud. Where might God already be working, even if what I can see seems small?

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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.