FAITH IN FEAR
PERSONAL STUDY
Week Eight — "Faith Under Pressure"

PASTOR INTRODUCTION
Here we are at the eighth week of "Faith in Fear." This time, we come to another moment in Elijah's ministry where the pressure is building. We find ourselves in the aftermath of Ahab's death and his son, Ahaziah, is now the king of Israel. However, he has an accident and becomes severely injured. What does he do? He looks for an answer. But instead of turning to the Lord, he sends messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, to find out whether he will recover, or not. God sends Elijah to intercept them.

Read II Kings 1:1-17.

There is something that bubbles to the surface after going through that passage: "Where do we turn when we are afraid and want an answer?"

Think of Ahaziah. He was afraid. He wanted to know what was going to happen to him. And rather than turning to the God of Israel, he looked elsewhere for answers and for security.

Do we do the same? Aren't we also tempted to look in different places when we are desperate for an answer to something?

Sometimes, instead of turning toward God, we look elsewhere. And what this passage does is it reminds us that faith is not simply believing that God exists. Faith means turning toward Him and trusting Him, especially when we are afraid and don't know what is going to come next.

Elijah also experiences pressure in this passage. The king sends soldiers to force him to come down from the mountain. But he remains faithful to the Word God has given him.

Where do we turn when we are afraid and want an answer?

Faith means turning to God rather than looking elsewhere for our security.

THE RUNDOWN

TEXT II Kings 1:1-17

THEME Turning to God when we are afraid.
Turning to God rather than looking elsewhere for our security.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why do we want quick answers when we are worried or afraid?

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What makes it difficult to trust God when we do not know what is coming around the corner?

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Why do you think Ahaziah seeks Baal-zebub instead of the Lord?

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Why do you think Elijah is so direct in his message here?

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How do the first two captains respond to Elijah?
What about the third?

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What does Elijah's response teach us about trusting God when we are under pressure?

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Look at Psalm 20:7. What does this verse teach us about where we should be placing our trust?

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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.