FAITH IN FEAR
PERSONAL STUDY
Week Nine — "Faith When We Have To Say Goodbye."

PASTOR INTRODUCTION
This is our penultimate week of "Faith in Fear" and we are, of course, very close to the end of our journey through the life of Elijah. Over these past couple of months, we have seen him experience uncertainty, fear, discouragement, silence, great victories, waiting, change, and pressure. But now we come to something that all of us experience at some point in our lives. Something that is always difficult. Saying goodbye.

Our passage comes at the end of Elijah's earthly ministry. God has told him that his time is coming to an end, and Elisha, the man who has been following him, is about to be left on his own.

Read II Kings 2:1-12.

There is something quite remarkable going on here. Elijah knows that he is leaving, and Elisha knows it, too. Three times Elijah tells Elisha to stay behind, and three times Elisha refuses to do so.

"I will not leave you," he says.

Elisha knows that things are starting to change. He knows that he is on the cusp of losing a pivotal person in his life. The one who has taught him, guided him, and prepared him for what comes next.

But this is not just a story about a person losing someone special in their life. It is also a story about God's faithfulness when one chapter comes to an end and another begins.

Elijah's ministry does not continue forever. His time comes to an end. But God's work never stops.

That is important for us to remember because endings can be difficult. We say goodbye to people we love. We leave places that have become familiar. Children grow up. Jobs change. Ministries change. Seasons of life come to an end.

Sometimes we know the change is coming. Sometimes it just comes out of the blue. And sometimes we may wonder:

"What happens now?"

"What happens next?"

But the story of Elijah and Elisha reminds us that our confidence is not ultimately in a person, a place, or a particular season of life. Our confidence is in God.

So what does it look like to trust God when we have to say goodbye?

Elijah's story was coming to an end, but God's story was not.

Faith means trusting God even when a chapter of our lives is coming to an end.

THE RUNDOWN

TEXT II Kings 2:1-12

THEME Trusting God when we have to say goodbye?
Trusting God when a chapter of our lives is coming to an end.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why are goodbyes and endings so difficult for us?

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What makes change especially difficulty when we have no idea what is going to happen next?

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What do we learn about Elijah and Elisha and their relationship?

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Why does Elisha ask for a "double portion" of Elijah's spirit?

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What does Elijah's departure teach us about the difference between God's work and any one person's ministry?

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How can we trust God when someone or something important to us is no longer there?

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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.