

Living On A Prayer - Elijah's Prayer

Introduction

Elijah's prayer on Mount Carmel is one of the most dramatic moments in Scripture, where God reveals his power in an undeniable way. Surrounded by the prophets of Baal and a crowd of Israelites unsure of whom to follow, Elijah steps forward with a simple but profound prayer. Before the fire falls from heaven, though, Elijah repairs the altar—a symbolic act of restoring true worship in a land that had strayed. He doesn't rush the process, even soaking the altar with water to emphasize God's might. When he prays, it's not a long or elaborate petition but one rooted in faith: "Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God." Elijah's prayer teaches us to pray with confidence and a desire for God's glory, knowing that when we come before God in humility, He responds in power.

Read Your Bible

- 1 Kings 18:30-39

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. Why is it significant that Elijah first repaired the altar before praying (v. 30)?
2. Why do you think Elijah had water poured over the sacrifice three times (v. 34-35)?
3. In verse 37, Elijah asks God to turn the hearts of his people back to God. How does this reveal the purpose of his prayer?
4. How does the fire falling from heaven in verse 38 demonstrate God's response to Elijah's prayer?
5. What does the people's reaction in verse 39 teach us about recognizing God's presence and authority?
6. How does this passage challenge our understanding of prayer—especially when asking for God's intervention?
7. How does Elijah's faithfulness inspire you to pray more boldly and with greater trust in God's plans?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Heavenly Father, thank you for the powerful example of Elijah's prayer on Mount Carmel. Teach us to pray with confidence and faith, trusting in Your power to transform hearts and lives. Help us repair the altars in our lives, restoring our worship and commitment to You. Fill us with Your Spirit as we learn to pray with purpose and passion. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.