
Standing In The Gap

“The Power Of Prayer”

05-12-24

1 Kings 18:41-46, James 5:16-18

Introduction: We have been working through the life of Elijah the Old Testament prophet God had raised up to confront the spiritual decline in Northern Israel.

1. His first act as prophet was to announce an impending drought. He then went into hiding.
2. This drought lasted some three and a-half years and led to severe suffering.
3. God was disciplining His people, not to harm them, but to open their minds.
4. We saw the effect of this discipline last week.
5. In 1 Kings 18:1, God told Elijah to reveal himself to Ahab and God would send rain.
6. When they met, Elijah challenged Ahab to a spiritual contest for the hearts of Israel.
 - This showdown was without a doubt the highlight of Elijah’s ministry.
 - Eight-hundred and fifty false prophets were purged from Israel and the people agreed that Jehovah was the true God.
7. Today we will focus on the restoration of rain and the essential role prayer played in that rain.
8. We’ll start with some basics.

I. What Is Prayer?

- A. Communication
- B. Dependency

II. Why should We Pray?

- A. Relationship
- B. Neediness
- C. Promises

III. A Case Study: Elijah

- A. God’s Command/Promise
- B. Elijah’s Obedience
- C. A Description Of Elijah’s Prayer
- D. The Power Of Elijah’s Prayer

Conclusion: Without God we can do nothing, but with God we can do all things.

1. This makes prayer essential. But prayer can be difficult.
2. Our problem is not the power of prayer. It’s more the fact prayer is not very glamorous.
3. Most of us have room for improvement in our prayer lives.
4. Let’s not feel guilty, let’s strive to do better!