



September 22, 2024 Sermon Notes

Sermon:

“It Ain’t Over... Until It’s Over”

(1 Kings 17:21-22 ESV)

Sermon By: Pastor G. Chris Brown

Sermon Text:

1 Kings 17:21-22 ESV

Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this child's life come into him again." [22] And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived.

Background:

- Here is the background with Elijah, having to deal with a dry brook at Cherith after the Lord told him to go where the ravens were to feed him there, and that he would drink from the brook! Elijah did what God said, and had food in the morning and evening but it was at that time that the brook dried up because of no rain in the land, and then Elijah goes to Zarephath following the direction of the Lord, and it was at that moment that he is told by God that a widow is going to feed him!
- Elijah gets up and goes to Zarephath and then encounters the woman, who's gathering sticks and he asks her for water and bread, but the woman says I have only made enough for me and my son to eat and die because she didn't have a lot but just a little flour and oil. Elijah then tells her don't fear, but take care of him and then make something for your son, but Elijah tells her that the Lord has said the oil won't be empty and the flour won't be spent, and that when she did what Elijah said that's when her household ate many days, and then the word of the Lord remained true because neither the flour or oil vanished.
- It's something that is very real and true, that as we follow the Lord we have to cash in on seasons that the Lord is blessing us with, because when something is over it is over because nothing lasts forever! Some stuff doesn't last always, but what does

- last is the Lord and when the Lord allows one season to end He has another season coming, because the Lord knows what you need, and when you trust in the Lord and follow the Lord that's when you know that the Lord has it all under control!
- It's important to bless the preacher, because when you bless the preacher the Lord blessed you, and when you follow the word of the Lord that's when you see that the Lord will show you the power of obedience! It's always important to to what the Lord says, and when you follow the Lord and do what the Lord is saying that's when you and I can have the blessings He has for us, and that's because we are following the Lord and since we are following the Lord we should know He has great things for us, He will work it out, and He will surely make sure that we live and stay with the Lord at all times because He will take care of us!

“Praying Is Real”

- Real prayer is when you and the Lord pray together but by yourself, because there are some things that are intimate that only you and the Lord need to know about because real prayer is a communication with the Lord, real prayer is consecration to the Lord, and real prayer is a connection with the Lord. There's no need to have a relationship with the Lord if you can't pray, but prayer is not a useless tool but prayer is a lively action and prayer is a power that can't be cut off!
- Prayer is real, prayer revives us, and prayer restores us because we all need to know and understand how powerful prayer is! Prayer is what keeps you going because it is a reminder that God is in control, it is a reminder that the Lord won't stop being good to you, it is a reminder that when your low God can lift you up, when your distraught God can put a smile back on your face, when your down God can raise you up, and when you are disappointed God can give hope again because praise is a reminder that we need God, and God will handle that dark and dead situation!
- Look at Elijah in the text, he stretched himself three times and prayed to the Lord that the life of the child would return. The word “stretch” in the Hebrew means: “To extend”, and you see that happens in the text, but then you see that when prayer is sincere, when prayer is honest, when prayer is open, and when prayer is determined the Lord knows how to send and open up the door that you need to be opened!
- Don't let the roughness of life, make you forget the goodness of God but keep on praying, and praying but you also see that prayer isn't limited isn't just limited to one time but you have to make sure that you pray more than once, because some stuff isn't immediate until God sees how much you want it and seek Him!
- You see it in the text that Elijah prayed three times, and the number three in the Bible means completeness and resurrection! Look at the text, and you see that here is Elijah and he is praying to the Lord but he prayed to the Lord more than once, because just because you don't get your answer the first time that doesn't mean you

stop praying! You don't stop praying just because the Lord hasn't answered right then, it's when the Lord doesn't answer that's when He sees what kind of follower of His you are, because even though He hasn't answered me yet, doesn't mean that He won't but what do you do when prayer is being sent up but God hasn't given the answer?

- Praying brings me closer to the Lord, prayer makes me see the possibilities in impossible situations, prayer makes me keep on climbing when I want to stop, prayer doesn't make me stop because I ought to know that the Lord will change things, the Lord will make things better, and the Lord will make me more complete and can heal my situation!
- It's then what you do you do when adversity comes, because you're going to face adversity but what do you do you can't run away because adversity is coming with you, you can't shout what you don't live, and when you look at your spiritual walk it ought to go from just talking but talking and living! That's what the key is because even though it's a challenge, there ought to be some faith in you that you know that I believe in the power of the Lord, I believe and have hope that things will get better, I have hope that things won't remain the same, and I have hope that things will improve because there's something in me that keeps me encouraged and what keeps me encouraged is knowing that the Lord operates and specializes in doing great things!

“God Operates In Miracle”

- All of us have a dead son situation! You ought to always pray for your children, and you should be glad that the Lord is keeping your children alive, and we need to lift up our children just so they know that they still have life to live.
- We have to tell the children you can have a blessed life, just because you came from a bad household doesn't mean you have to follow in the footsteps! You can have a better life, you can have a better today, you can have a better tomorrow, you can graduate, you can get a great job, you can start that business, you can go to college, you can be magna or summa cum laude, you can be great, you can do more, instead of always hollering and fussing we need to encourage and empower our children and let them know that when they keep the Lord first He will take care of them and bless them!
- As powerful the Lord is we ought to pray with authority, we ought to pray boldly, we ought to pray with confidence, and we ought to pray with firmness because the Lord is gigantic, the Lord has enormous hands, and the Lord has all power and if I know that why should I be afraid to pray! I ought not have small prayers when I have the creator in my corner, when I have the creator in my corner and when I know that the Lord is in my corner and because I know He is the creator, He is the owner, He is the maker, He is the leader, and He is the main CEO and that's because

I know that the Lord is in charge and in control I know that I can have powerful prayers, because I serve a powerful God!

- **Prayer is always our best move, and you see that the Lord will bless and you see that the Lord will give life and give restoration! It will come to us, and it will happen but I also understand that in prayer I have to wait my turn but what I have discovered is that when you keep on waiting on the Lord, and when you keep on praying the Lord will call your name! That's what is good about the Lord, and that's what great about the Lord, is that prayer is like that because prayer makes you wait but God is worth waiting on!**
- **Prayer is understanding how important it is to wait on the Lord, prayer is realizing the value of the Lord, and prayer is understanding that where you lack God always overrides and you ought to be glad that we have an overriding God, because when I'm at my lowest or when I'm just at my times and moments of feeling inadequate the Lord knows how to pull me up!**
- **Every day of your life is an answered prayer, and you ought to thank the Lord that He answers prayer! He will keep you safe, He will keep you healthy, He will keep you from losing your mind, He will keep you in perfect peace, He will keep you mature, He will keep you standing, He will keep you living, He will keep you with resources and nutrition, He will keep you seeing, He will keep you hydrated, and He will keep you inspired! It ought to let you know that the Lord is a prayer answering God, and it makes me glad that He will hear and answer prayer and I'm glad that God will answer prayer!**

This Week's Goals:

- Read 1 Kings 17 this week!
- Pray fervently!

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