

Why Our Faith Fails

July 27, 2014 AM & PM

James 5:17–18

17 **Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.**

18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

1 Kings 18:20–40

37 Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.”

38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God.”

40 And Elijah said to them, “Seize the prophets of Baal (450); let not one of them escape.” And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there.

1 Kings 19:1–4

1 **Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.**

2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.”

3 **Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.**

4 But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. **And he asked that he might die, saying, “It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.”**

- **“IT IS ENOUGH...”** -- *spiritually, psychologically and emotionally depleted*

Galatians 6:7–9

7 *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.*

8 *For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

9 *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

2 Peter 2:7–9

7 *and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked*

8 *(for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard);*

9 *then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,*

Philippians 4:6–9

6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

- **“...I AM NO BETTER THAN MY FATHERS...”** -- worldly expectations always disappoint creating spiritual, psychological and emotional failures

1 Peter 4:1

"Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm (to make ready, equip) yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin."

Matthew 16:21–23

21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you."

23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Matthew 26:51–54

51 And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.

52 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?

54 But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?"

John 6:60–67

60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"

61 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this?"

66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

67 So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?"

- **"...TAKE AWAY MY LIFE..."** -- giving up

Hebrews 3:14

"For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end."

1 Kings 19:5-8

5 **And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat."**

6 And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again.

7 And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, **for the journey is too great for you.**"

8 **And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.**

Hebrews 4:15–16

15 *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

16 *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

1 Kings 19:9-10

9 There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, **"What are you doing here, Elijah?"**

10 He said, **"I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."**

- **"I have been very jealous for the Lord..."** -- self-righteousness, which always contains spiritual pride, but can only see SELF
- **"...the people of Israel have...and I..."** -- takes people's rejection of God personally and feels sorry for himself, not God!
- **"...even I only..."** -- self-obsessed
- **"...killed your prophets..."** -- what about the 450 prophets of Baal that were just killed?
- **"...they seek my life..."** -- paranoid, his life was being threatened by Jezebel only, Israel was rejoicing at what happened at Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18:39)

1 Kings 19:11-14

11 And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.

12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.

13 And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

14 He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."

- we must ENCOUNTER God, not just have an EXPERIENCE
- an EXPERIENCE brings momentary relief, but no change, no true healing
- an ENCOUNTER brings conviction, repentance, cleansing, healing

1 Samuel 16:14 "Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him."

1 Samuel 16:23 "And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him."

1 John 1:7

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."

Psalm 73:1–26

1 Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped.

3 For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

4 For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.

5 They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.

6 Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment.

7 Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies.

8 They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression.

9 They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth.

10 Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault in them.

11 And they say, "How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?"

12 Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches.

13 All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence.

14 For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning.

15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed the generation of your children.

16 *But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task,*
17 *until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.*
18 *Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin.*
19 *How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!*
20 *Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.*
21 *When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart,*
22 *I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you.*
23 *Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.*
24 *You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.*
25 *Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.*
26 *My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

Job 42:1–6

1 *Then Job answered the LORD and said:*
2 *“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.*
3 *‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.*
4 *‘Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.’*
5 *I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;*
6 *therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”*

1 Kings 19:15-18

15 **And the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria.**
16 **And Jehu (2 Kings 9:30-37 - Jehu executes Jezebel) the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.**
17 **And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death.**
18 **Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”**

1 Kings 19:1–21

19 **So he departed from there and found Elisha** the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. **Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him.**
20 And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?”
21 And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. **Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.**