

1 Kings 18:41-46

3 Balances Of Living Out God's Word Through Kingdom Service



Background/Context

- After great display of God's presence on Mr. Carmel, Elijah continues ministry
- Land still in terrible drought and God had given specific word about this; Elijah serves to carry out God's will
- I Kings 17:1, "...there shall not be dew nor rain these years except at my word."
- I Kings 18:1, "...present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."

Keeping The Connection Between Faith and Works

- (vv. 41-42) Miraculous encounter on Mt. Carmel, but this not ending, only a part of God's work
- Elijah moves forward in faith and works, tells Ahab he "hears" rain coming and then goes and prays for it to come
- Faith: Believing God and His word and living it out, despite what our senses, circumstances, and society tells us
- Faith and works always work together in God's plan of service

- James 2:17, “Thus also, faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”
- Philippians 2:12, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, just as you have always obeyed, so now not only in my presence but even more in my absence, **WORK OUT** your own salvation with fear and trembling.”



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

Discerning The Timing Between Persistence And Patience

- (vv. 43-44) On Mt. Carmel, Elijah prayed one prayer and the fire of God fell immediately, here something very different
- Things don't happen immediately; there is prayer, waiting and then more praying
- It took 7 times before there evidence of God ending drought
- Elijah was persistent, but had to wait and go through process
- God's time is the best time

- John 11:5-6, “Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.”
- Hebrews 12:1, “...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...”



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

Guarding The Difference Between Self-Promotion And Service

- (vv. 45-46) The rain comes and drought ends!! Elijah, much victory and success; fire of God from heaven, prophets of Baal defeated, drought ends
- Elijah could have promoted himself and probably had King Ahab killed, but he didn't
- Chose to honor and serve the King and guide him to relationship with God (ran before his chariot)
- Jezreel: winter Capital of Ahab; 15 miles from Mt. Carmel

- Mark 10:45, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
- Acts 20:33-34, "I have coveted no man's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me."

