

Message Notes

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Date: March 31, 2019

Bible Focus: James 5:17-18

Series: Only by Prayer

Message Title: Great Expectations

James 5:17-18 – *Elijah was a man with a nature like ours [with the same physical, mental, and spiritual limitations and shortcomings], and he prayed intensely for it not to rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the land produced its crops [as usual].* (AMP)

1 Kings 18:41-42 – *And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain."⁴² So Ahab went off to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees.*

1. Expectant Prayer _____

1 Kings 18:36-39 – *At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command."*

2. Expectant Prayer _____

1 Kings 18:43-44a – *"Go and look toward the sea," he told his servant. And he went up and looked. "There is nothing there," he said. Seven times Elijah said, "Go back."⁴⁴ The seventh time the servant reported, "A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea."*

3. Expectant Prayer _____

Psalms 5:3 – *In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.*

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

James 5:17-18; 1 Kings 18:36-45

1. How does the thought of God answering some but not all of your prayers make you feel? How can James 1:6-7 serve as an expectation regulator?
2. Complete this sentence: "Knowing that Elijah was someone like me, with flaws and shortcomings, makes me want to pray with..."
3. Why is maintaining the attitude of a humble servant indispensable in expectant, respectful prayers?
4. The right kind of expectant belief is God-ward, not man-ward. How so? List and consider essential differences between God-centered belief and man-centered belief.
5. Consider a time in the recent past when you eagerly waited for something. What do you attribute your eagerness to? Can you see any parallels between that time of waiting and times when you have waited on God? What does this tell you?
6. This week, as we wrap up our Only by Prayer series, what do you hope to remember and be changed by? How might these learnings play out in the near future? What will you do next?