

A close-up, profile view of a woman with light skin and dark hair, looking upwards with her hands clasped in a prayerful gesture. The background is dark blue with subtle, wavy patterns.

# ACCESSING SPIRITUAL POWER THROUGH THE PRAYER OF FAITH

THE EXAMPLE OF ELIJAH  
(James 5:17,18)

1 Kings 17:1-2 Kings 2:11



# ACCESSING SPIRITUAL POWER THROUGH THE PRAYER OF FAITH

Instructions to the weak  
James 5:14-16

## James 5:14-16 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you **suffering**? Let him pray.

**kakopatheo** (κακοπαθέω, 2553), to suffer physical pain, hardship and distress

<sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you **sick**? Let him call for the elders...

**astheneo** (ἀσθενέω, 770), akin to A, No. 1, “to lack strength, to be weak, sick,” ...

<sup>15</sup> And the prayer of faith will save the **sick**, and the Lord will raise him up.

**kamno** (κάμνω, 2577) “to work”; then, as the effect of continued labor, “to be weary”

<sup>16</sup> Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be **healed**.

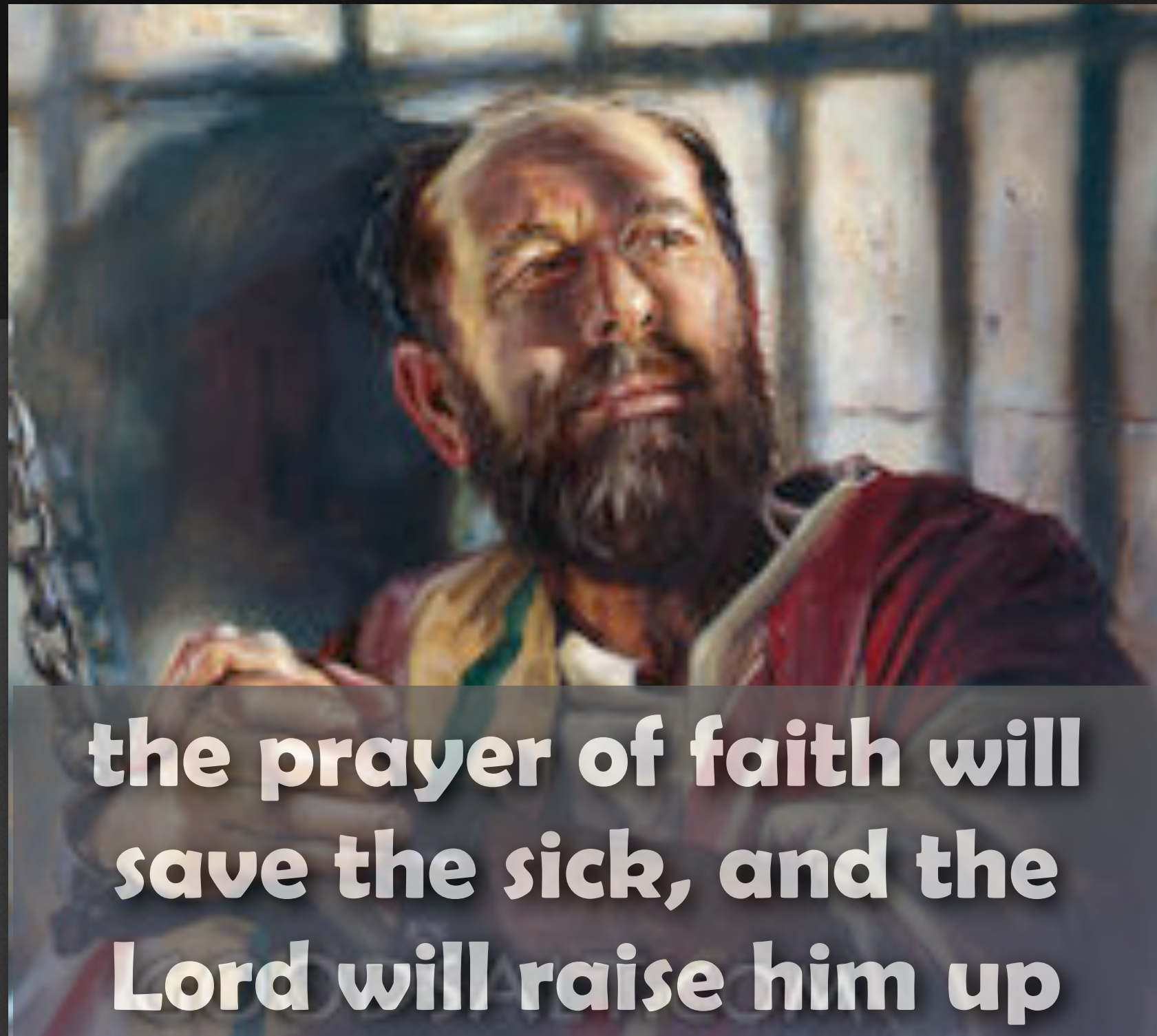
**iaomai** (ἰάομαι, 2390), “to heal,” is rendered “to make whole,”



# ACCESSING SPIRITUAL POWER THROUGH THE PRAYER OF FAITH

Instructions to the weak  
James 5:14-16

<G770> - ἀσθενέω, astheneōlit., "to be weak, feeble" (a, negative, sthenos, "strength")



- **Need for FAITH in trials – 1:2-6**
- **Blessed is the man that endures temptation – 1:13**
- **Prosecuted by the rich – 2:6,7**
- **Submission, repentance, humility - the Lord will lift us up – 4:7-9**
- **Poor Christians being defrauded – 5:4**
- **Need for patience in suffering – 5:7-12**



# ACCESSING SPIRITUAL POWER THROUGH THE PRAYER OF FAITH

Instructions to the weak  
James 5:14-16

**“IF ANY OF YOU”** - POSSIBLE CONDITIONS



**INSTRUCTION / RESULT**

will save the sick ... the Lord will raise him up ... he will be forgiven.



# ACCESSING SPIRITUAL POWER THROUGH THE PRAYER OF FAITH

## EXAMPLE OF ELIJAH (James 5:17,18)



<sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.  
<sup>18</sup> And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

- Elijah was a man with a nature like ours
- He is an example of persecution, affliction, and fervent prayer - (1 Ki. 17:1; 1 Ki 18:41-45)



# ELIJAH

## A MAN WITH A NATURE LIKE OURS



- Prophesied in a time and place of great wickedness: (Ahab - I Kings 16:32-33; Jezebel - I Kings 18:4; Rev 2:20)
- Elijah ( "*Jehovah is MY God*" ), stood uncompromisingly with great faith and preached an unpopular message (I Kings 17:1)



# ELIJAH

## A MAN WITH A NATURE LIKE OURS



- Told to flee, cared for by God (Ravens, widow of Zarephath, miracle of the unending supply of flour - raised widows son) - 1 Kings 17:2-24

### 1 Kings 17:1-4 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “*As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.*” <sup>2</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, <sup>3</sup> “Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. <sup>4</sup> And it will be *that* you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.”



# ELIJAH

## RETURNS TO FACE AHAB



### 1 Kings 18:1–2 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass *after* many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, “Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.” <sup>2</sup> So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and *there was* a severe famine in Samaria.



# ELIJAH

## RETURNS TO FACE AHAB



- Elijah gives instructions to Obadiah (1 Kings 18:7-15)
- Elijah was a wanted man (1 Kings 18:10)
- Elijah confronts Ahab, the real troubler of Israel (1 Kings 18:16-18)
- Elijah tells Ahab to assemble all Israel together at Mount Carmel (I Kings 18:19)



# ELIJAH

## A GREAT SPIRITUAL VICTORY AT MOUNT CARMEL

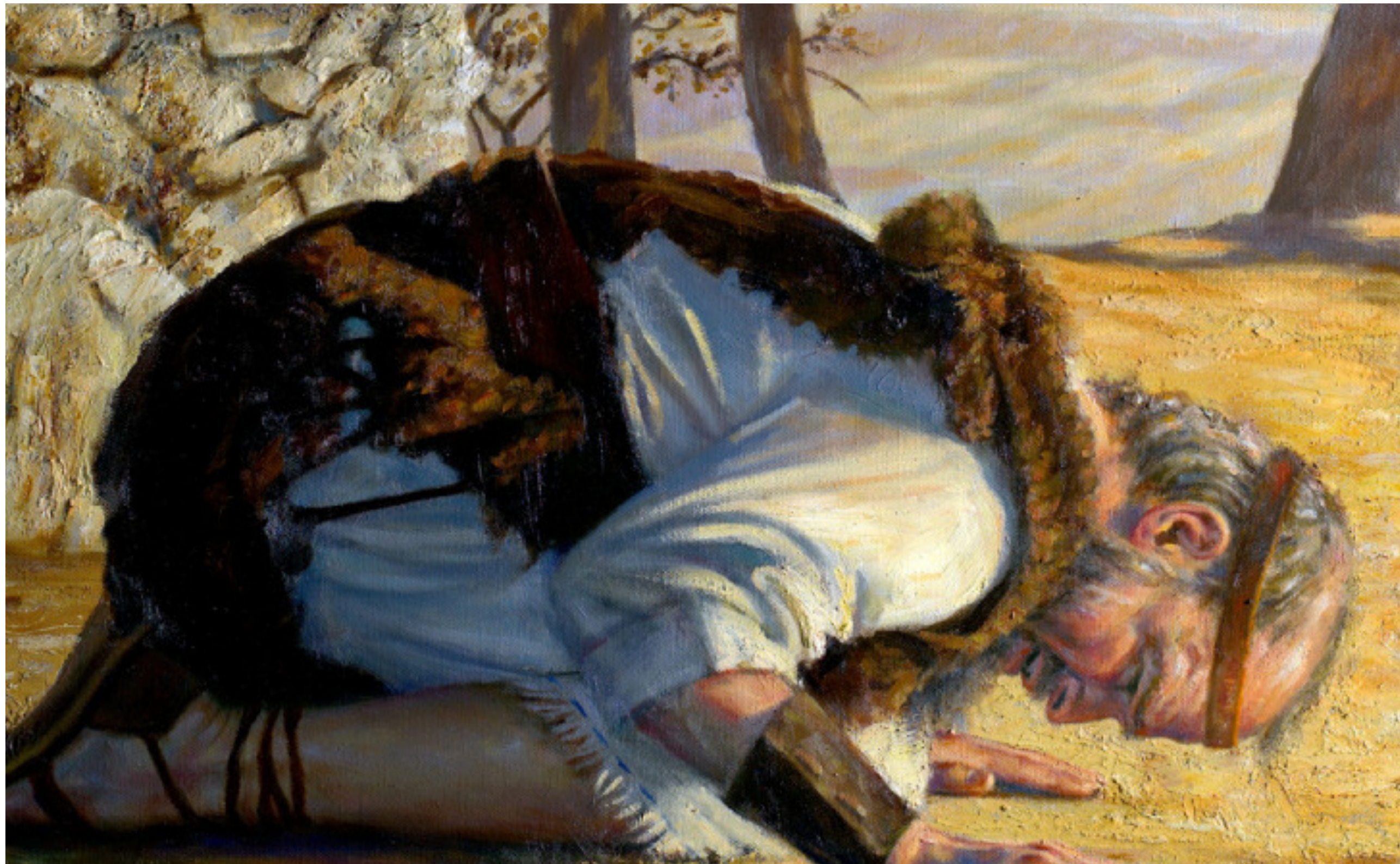


- Elijah's boldness (vs. 21, 27-29)
- Rebukes Israel's indifference (21)
- He stood alone! Elijah vs. 450 prophets of Baal (22)
- Mocks Baal and its prophets (26-29)
- Fire from heaven (30-39)
- Executes the 450 prophets! (vs. 40)



# ELIJAH

## ELIJAH PRAYS FOR RAIN



- Elijah's prayer for rain (*7 times*), is answered (1 Kings 18:41-45; James 5:18)



# ELIJAH

## FLEES FOR HIS LIFE



- Jezebel puts a bounty on his head! (I Kings 19:1-2)
- Elijah flees and becomes so discouraged he prays “It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I *am* no better than my fathers!” (I Kings 19:3-5)
- Elijah is exhausted physically and emotionally. *He feels like a failure! He has been faithful, and zealous, but things are worse now than before.*



# ELIJAH

## EVEN FAITHFUL PEOPLE OF GOD CAN GET DISCOURAGED



- Moses – “Kill me at once, if I find favor in your sight ...” Num 11:15
- Jeremiah - “That my mother might have been my grave” Jer 20:14-18
- Job – “Who longs for death but it does not come” Job 3:20-22
- Paul – “We were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself” 2 Cor 1:8



# ELIJAH

## THE DAY ELIJAH WANTED TO DIE



- Elijah had forgotten the good - 1 Kings 17,18
- Elijah allowed fear to get to him - 19:2,3
- Elijah felt sorry for himself - ready to quit - 19:5
- Elijah thought his faithfulness and zeal would spark a spiritual revolution - 19:10,14
- Underestimated God & the faithful - 19:15-18



# ELIJAH

## GOD HELPS ELIJAH (1 KINGS 19:5-18)



- Fed twice by an angel (19:5-8)
- Traveled to Mt Horeb - Forty days & nights without food - stayed in a cave (19:8,9)
- After the Lord came to Elijah & ask: “What are you doing here?” God reveals His power in the wind, earthquake, fire and a still small voice - - then ask again . . . (10-13)



# ELIJAH

## GOD HELPS ELIJAH (1 KINGS 19:5-18)

1 KINGS 19:1-18



- Elijah told to get busy (14-18)
  - ✓ *Anoint Hazael as king over Syria. (15)*
  - ✓ *Anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi king over Israel. (16)*
  - ✓ *Anoint Elisha as prophet in your place. (16)*
  - ✓ *Give them their orders (17)*
- “I have reserved 7,000 in Israel,” who have not bowed to Baal, ... (18)



# ELIJAH

ELIJAH RETURNS TO SERVICE (1 KINGS 21:17-29; 2 KINGS 1:3-2:12)

1 KINGS 19:1-18



- Elijah Returns - I Ki.21:17-29
  - ▶ *His Boldness is Back 21:20,21*
  - ▶ *His Message is Stronger - 21:21-24*
  - ▶ *Now Ahab is Afraid - 21:27*
- Elijah trains Elisha - faces Ahaziah after Ahab's death - destroys Ahaziah's two groups of 50 with fire - 2 Kings 1:9-18
- Ascends to heaven - 2 Ki 2:11,12



# ACCESSING SPIRITUAL POWER THROUGH THE PRAYER OF FAITH

# ELIJAH



## THE CURE FOR SPIRITUAL WEAKNESS



- A Part of the Christian's life we CAN overcome! (Jam. 1:2-5; Heb. 12:1-15)
- Discouragement is a tool of Satan to
  - ▶ Weaken our faith,
  - ▶ Hinder our service to God
  - ▶ Diminish our effectiveness
  - ▶ Divide the people of God.



# ACCESSING SPIRITUAL POWER THROUGH THE PRAYER OF FAITH

# ELIJAH



## THE CURE FOR SPIRITUAL WEAKNESS



### James 5:14-16 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you suffering? **Let him pray.** <sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? **Let him call for the elders...** <sup>15</sup> And **the prayer of faith will save** the sick, and **the Lord will raise him up.** <sup>16</sup> **Confess** your trespasses to one another, and **pray for one another**, that you may be **healed.**



# ACCESSING SPIRITUAL POWER THROUGH THE PRAYER OF FAITH



## THE CURE FOR SPIRITUAL WEAKNESS



- Remember – GOD IS IN CONTROL, GOD WILL PROVIDE for our needs, and GOD IS AT WORK! (Mt 6:25-34)
- Take time for physical, emotional, spiritual rest and nourishment - PRAY / MEDITATE / SURROUND YOURSELF WITH THOSE WHO CAN HELP STRENGTHEN YOU (Mark 8:31-32, 46)
- GET BACK TO WORK and focus back on God's purpose for our lives (I Peter 4:7ff)



# ACCESSING SPIRITUAL POWER THROUGH THE PRAYER OF FAITH

# ELIJAH



## THE CURE FOR SPIRITUAL WEAKNESS



- Don't exaggerate the negative. Our blessings in Christ are far more valuable and enduring.
- Focus on TRUTH, not feelings - Truth endures forever - emotions, good or bad, come and go like the wind.
- Accept accountability for our actions.
- Get HELP and become active again.









# ACCESSING SPIRITUAL POWER THROUGH THE PRAYER OF FAITH

## THE EXAMPLE OF ELIJAH (James 5:17,18)

1 Kings 17:1-2 Kings 2:11

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## Hebrews 12:7–11 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? <sup>8</sup> But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. <sup>9</sup>

Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup> For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness. <sup>11</sup> Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.