

LESSONS FROM
THE LIFE OF

ELIJAH

THE PROPHET WHO
COULDN'T SEE

1 Kings 17:1-2 Kings 2:11



ELIJAH

A MAN WITH A NATURE LIKE OURS

- Ahab – Wicked king of Israel (I Kings 16:32-33)
- Jezebel – Ahab's wicked wife (I Kings 18:4; Rev 2:20)
- Elijah – A courageous and bold prophet of the Lord - *James 5:17,18*
 - Name: "Jehovah is MY God"
 - Stood uncompromisingly with great faith (I Kings 17:1)



ELIJAH



A MAN WITH A NATURE LIKE OURS

- A prophet with an unpopular message - 1 Kings 17:1
- 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 (NKJV)

¹ 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."

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A GREAT SPIRITUAL VICTORY AT MOUNT CAMEL

- After three years he returns and demands a “Battle between a god & The God” - (*1 Kings 18:1, 17-20*)
- A wanted man... He has been blamed for the drought!
- He boldly points his finger at Ahab for his sinfulness
- The battle takes place (*1 Kings 18:22-26, 30-38*)

1 KINGS 18:1 (NKJV)

¹ 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.”

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A GREAT SPIRITUAL VICTORY AT MOUNT CAMEL

- Elijah shows great faith & boldness (vs. 21, 27-29)
 - *Rebukes Israel's indifference - (21)*
 - *He stood alone! Elijah vs. 450 prophets of Baal - (22)*
 - *Mocks the prophets of Baal and Baal himself - (26-29)*
- Fire from heaven - (30-39)
- He then executes those 450 prophets! (vs. 40)

1 KINGS 18:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God who answers by fire, He is God." So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

ELIJAH



RUNS FOR HIS LIFE

- Jezebel puts a bounty on his head! (I Kings 19:1-2)
- *Shows her determination — It will take place tomorrow!*
- *No reason to doubt her — She'd killed God's prophets before, had the means, & was angry enough (cf. 18:4)*

1 KINGS 19:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. ² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." ³ And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

ELIJAH



THE DAY ELIJAH WANTED TO DIE

- At this word Elijah becomes so discouraged he says he just wants to die (I Kings 19:3-5)
- *This is the same man who stood so courageously earlier*
- *He purposefully leaves his servant behind... He's alone*
- *It is apparent he is exhausted physically and emotionally, is deep in self pity with unrealistic expectations -*

1 KINGS 19:4 (NKJV)

⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"

ELIJAH



THE DAY ELIJAH WANTED TO DIE

- Moses – *“Kill me at once, if I find favor in your sight, that I may not see my wretchedness”* - Num 11:15
- Jonah – *“It is better for me to die than to live”* - Jonah 4:3,8
- 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

1 KINGS 19:4 (NKJV)

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ELIJAH



THE DAY ELIJAH WANTED TO DIE

- Discouragement clouded his thinking (*1 Kings 19:10, 14*)
- *He wanted to start a national spiritual reformation but feels like he has failed... seems no one listened!*
- *Feels he's the only one standing for what is right*

1 KINGS 19:4 (NKJV)

⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"

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THE DAY ELIJAH WANTED TO DIE

- What caused him to drift into such a state as this?
- *Vs. 3 – (NKJV) – “SAW” – Focused on the wrong thing – (Mat 14:28-31)*
- *Caught up in the backwash of a great spiritual victory – His emotions peaked & was on his way down – exhausted – (19:10)*
- *Dreams were shattered – Felt he accomplished nothing – the deflating emotion of rejection – (19:10)*

1 KINGS 19:4 (NKJV)

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THE DAY ELIJAH WANTED TO DIE

1 KINGS 19:1-18



- Elijah had forgotten the good - 1 Kings 17,18
- Elijah allowed fear of Jezebel to get to him - 19:2,3
- Elijah felt sorry for himself - he was ready to quit - 19:5
- Thought he deserved better since he had been faithful - 19:10,14
- Underestimated God & the faithful - 19:15-18

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THE DAY ELIJAH WANTED TO DIE

1 KINGS 19:1-18



- Fed twice by an angel - 5-8
- Traveled to Mt Horeb - Forty days & nights without food - stayed in a cave -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

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GOD'S REMEDY FOR DISCOURAGEMENT

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

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GOD'S REMEDY FOR DISCOURAGEMENT

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

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GOD'S REMEDY FOR DISCOURAGEMENT



- ✦ A Part of life - Christians need to overcome! - James 1:2-5; Hebrews 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.

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GOD'S REMEDY FOR DISCOURAGEMENT

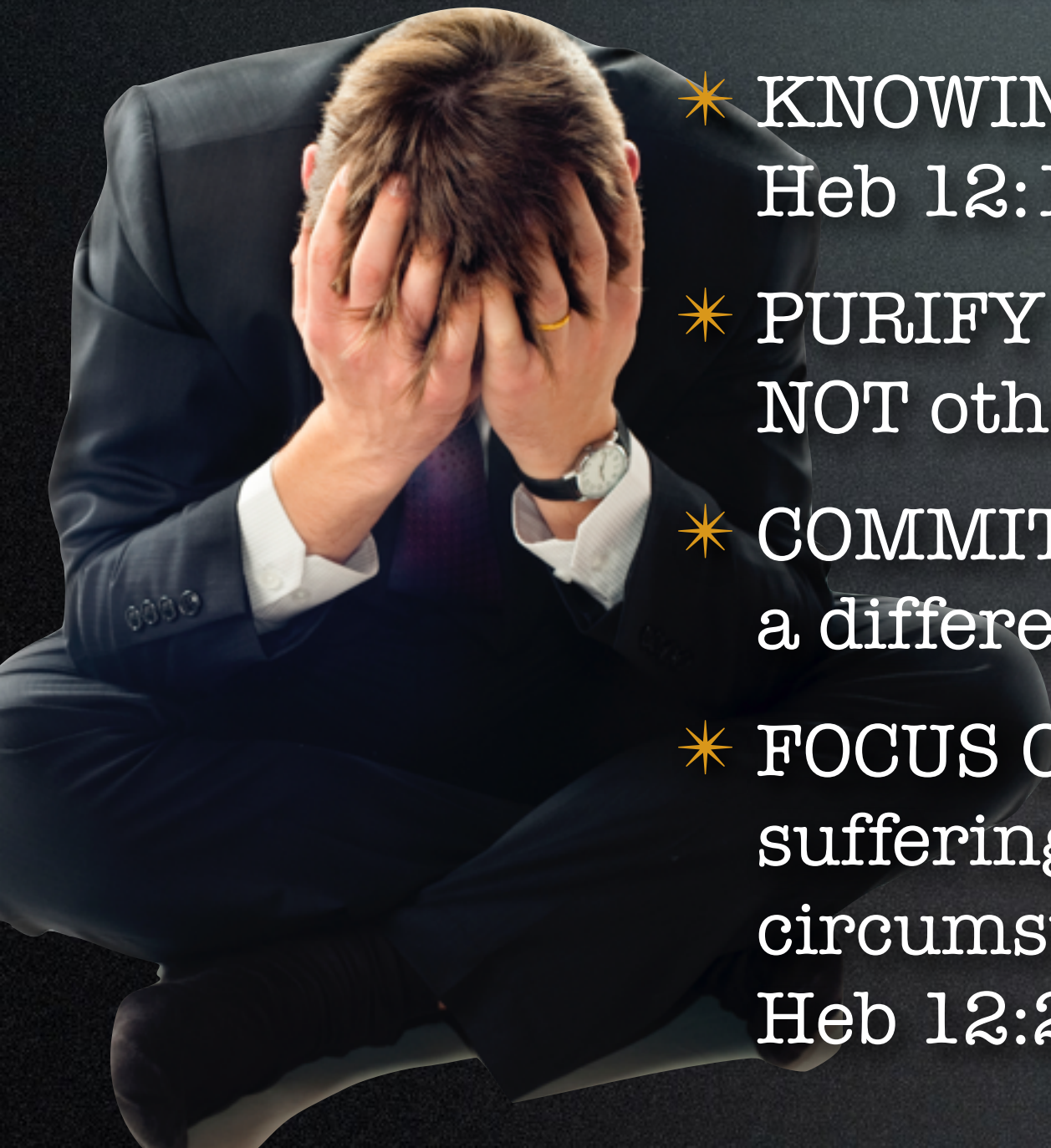


- ✦ What are we to do when discouraged / depressed?
 - Focus on facts, not feelings
 - Don't compare yourself with others
 - Don't accept false blame
 - Don't exaggerate the negative
 - Get active again

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OVERCOME DISCOURAGEMENT BY:

- 
- ✦ KNOWING WE CAN overcome by faith - Heb 12:1; 11:1-40
 - ✦ PURIFY OURSELVES - examine SELF NOT others - Heb 12:1; 2 Cor 13:5
 - ✦ COMMIT TO THE WORK - get busy - make a difference - Heb 12:1; Jn 21:20-22
 - ✦ FOCUS ON JESUS - remember His suffering, sacrifice & VICTORY (our circumstances could be MUCH worse)! - Heb 12:2-5

HEBREWS 12:12-15

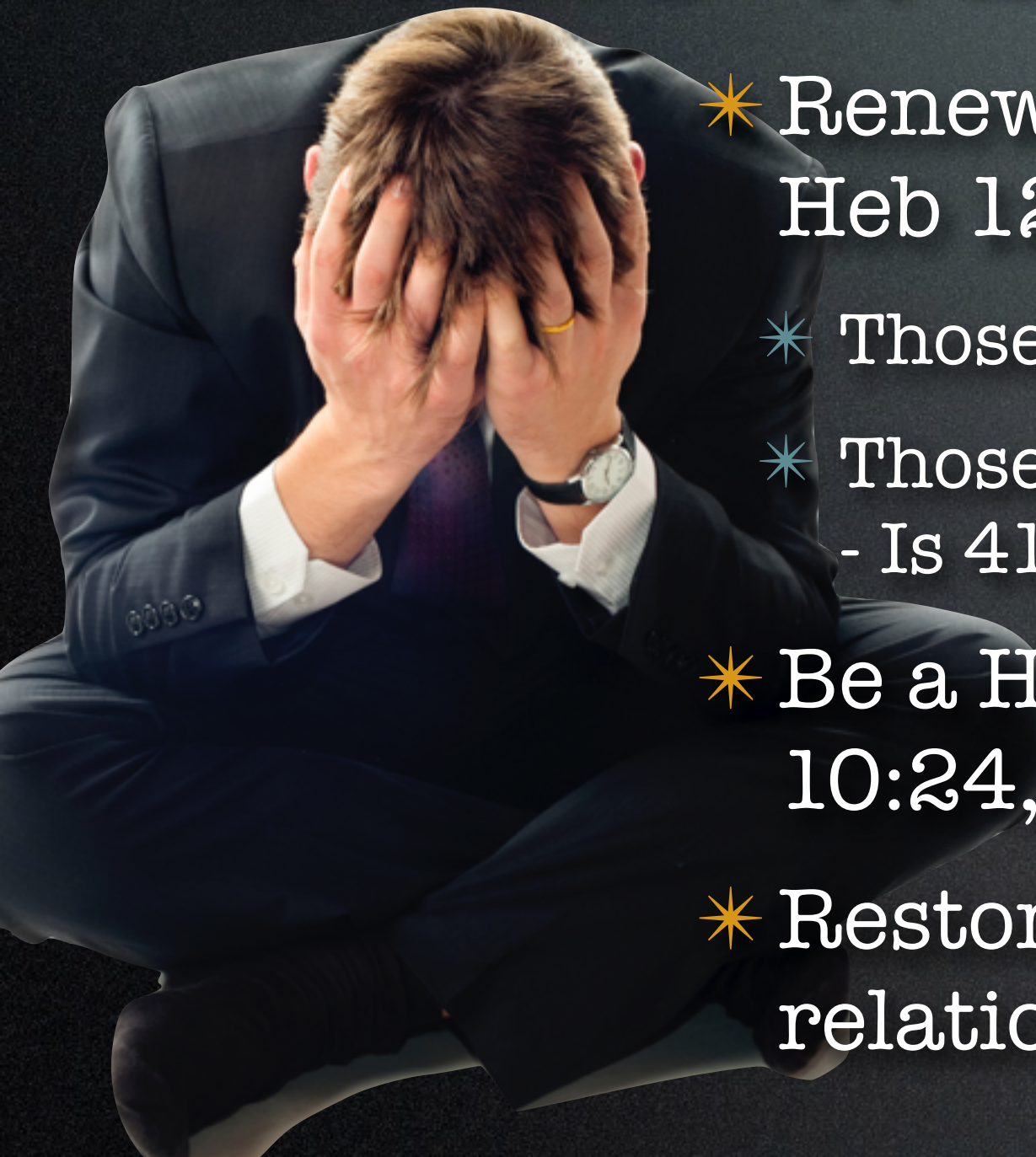
(NKJV)

¹² Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. ¹⁴ Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: ¹⁵ looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

ELIJAH

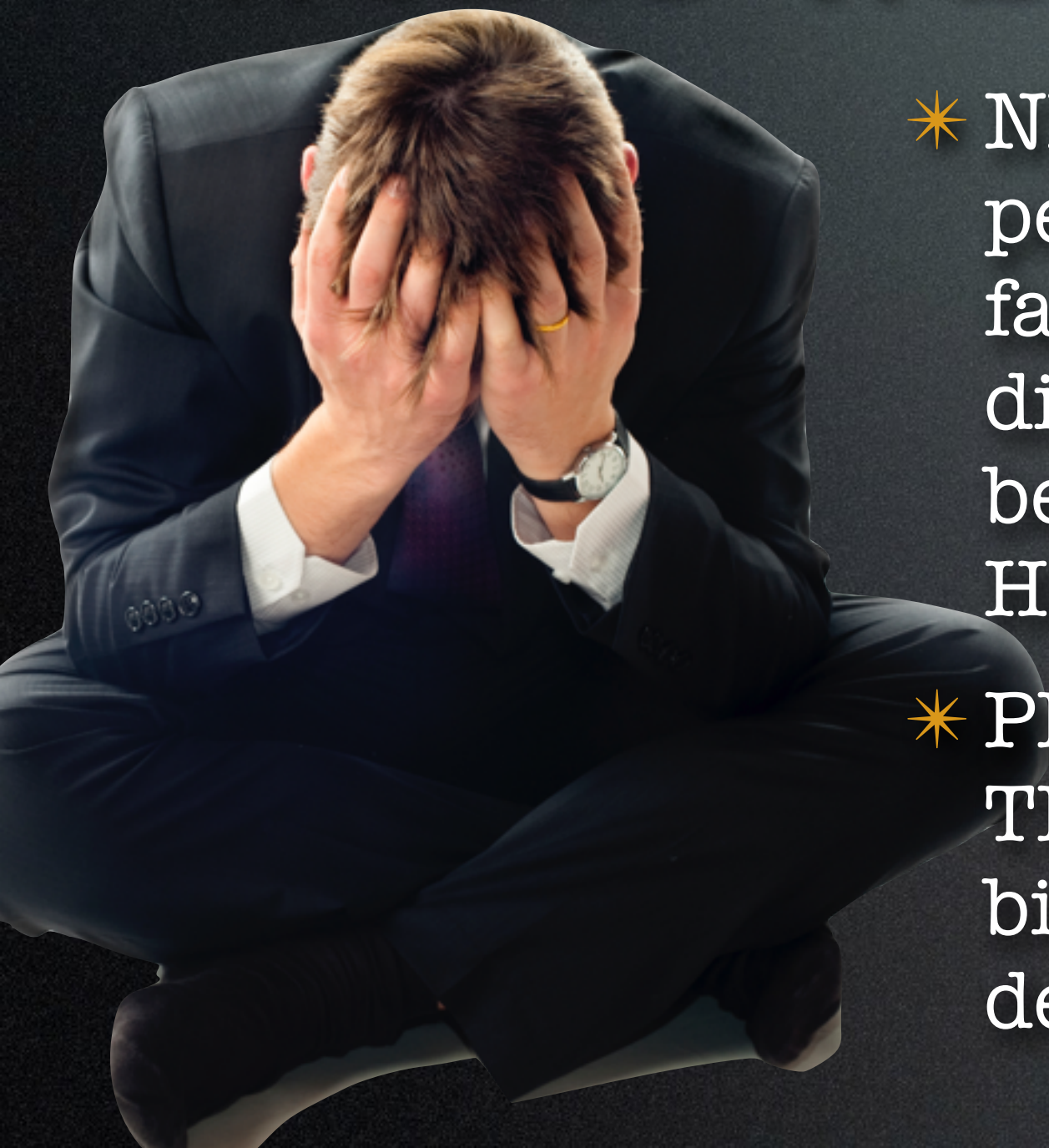


WHAT WE SHOULD DO:

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- ✦ Renew our strength in the LORD - Heb 12:12; Eph 6:10-18
 - ✦ Those who wait on the Lord - Is 40:31
 - ✦ Those who come near the Lord together - Is 41:1; Heb 10:24,25
 - ✦ Be a HELP to one another - Heb 10:24,25; 12:13
 - ✦ Restore & strengthen our relationships, be holy - Heb 12:14

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WHAT WE SHOULD DO:



- * NEED FOR PATIENCE - persevering through & in the face of those things that discourage us by refusing to become “weary in doing good” - Heb 12:15a; Ga 6:9; Ja 5:7-11.
- * PREVENT, (or PUT A STOP TO), TROUBLE, by putting away bitterness so many will not be defiled - Heb 12:15b; Nu 13 & 14

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WHAT WE SHOULD DO:

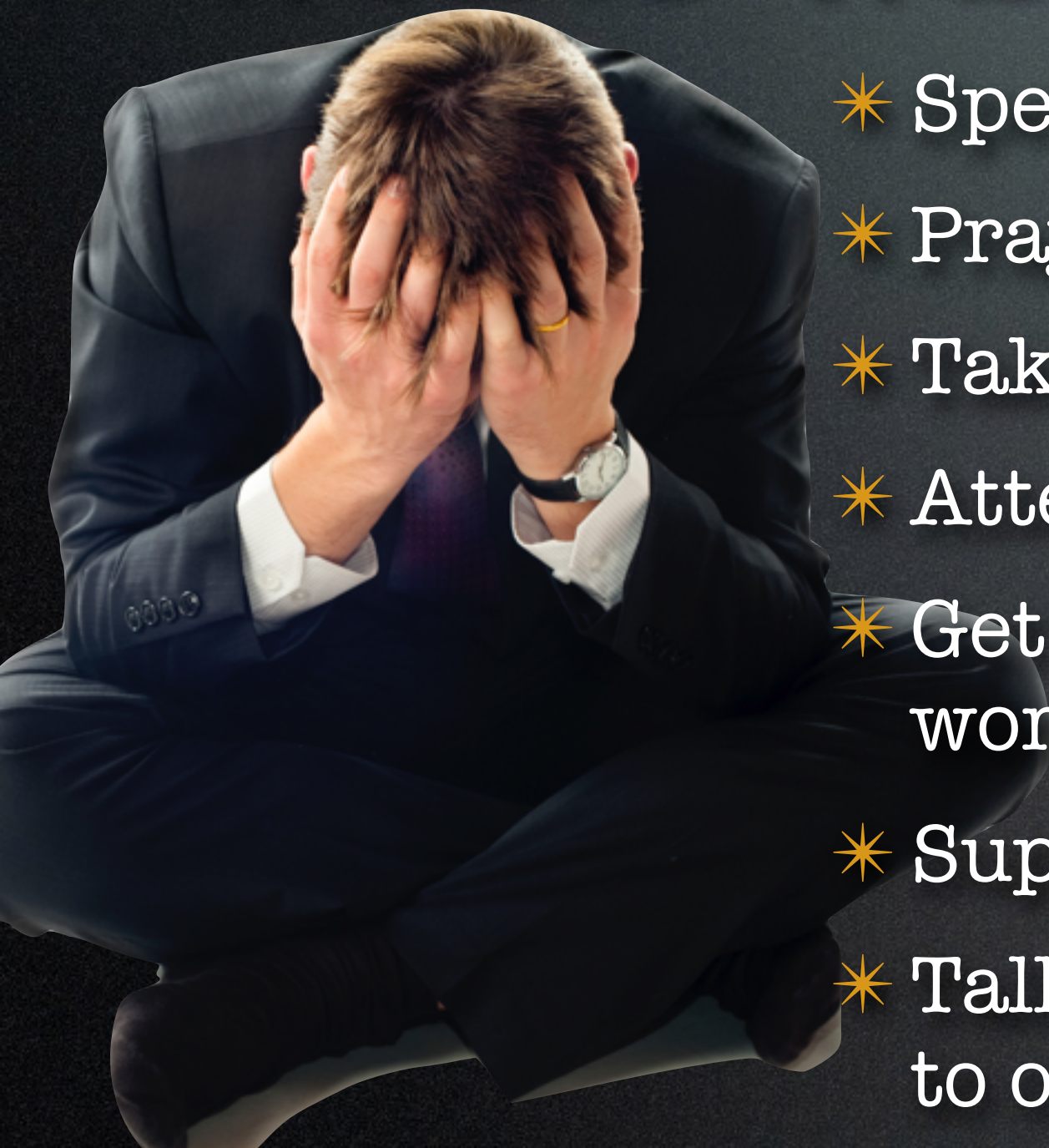


- ✦ Take time for physical, emotional, and spiritual rest and nourishment (Mark 8:31-32, 46)
- ✦ Remember – God is in control, God will provide for our needs, and God is at work! (Mt 6:25-34)
- ✦ Get back to work and focus back on god's purpose for our lives (I Peter 4:7ff)

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WHAT WE SHOULD DO:



- ✦ Spend more time in God's word -
- ✦ Pray fervently for the church.
- ✦ Take responsibility personally
- ✦ Attend every service possible
- ✦ Get personally involved in the worship & needs of the church
- ✦ Support the work of the church
- ✦ Talk "UP" the work of the church to others . . .

ELIJAH

WHAT WE SHOULD DO:



- ✦ Realize superficial changes WILL NOT provide in the long run what we need - if the problem is us, the problem will follow us wherever we go! - (Mat 23:23-27)
- ✦ CHANGE OUR PERSPECTIVE - Elijah's perception was his reality - but his reality was WRONG! - (cf Numb 13,14; 2 Cor 4:16-18)

Charts by Don McClain / Preached May 15, 2016

West 65th Street church of Christ P.O. Box 190062 / Little Rock AR 72219 /
501-568-1062 / Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

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