
ELIJAH

From the ordinary to the extraordinary

Session 1: From the Ordinary to the Extraordinary
Zimbabwe, August 2019



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1 Kings 16:30 *“And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him.”*

Ahab was married to Jezebel .. can you imagine what was going on in Israel during this time!!

The world was so very immorally impure – there was every sexual deviation you could think of happening under king Ahab and queen Jezebel’s reign.

Judgement came in the form of a famine ...

1 Kings 17:1 *“Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.”*

The famine was so bad that they were eating donkeys heads – and eventually even children!

When there is a famine, people do the most horrific things!

The reason why so much sex trafficking is happening all over the earth today is because of poverty and famine ... people sell their children – they will use and exploit children for sex – that is what happens when there is famine in the land.

After Elijah prophesied the famine, terrible things were happening, it was the time of Baal worship – worshipping foreign gods and idols.

The Word tells us in chapter 18 that there was an awesome victory between Elijah and the Baal priests

1 Kings 18:1 *“After many days the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, “Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth.” 2 So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria.*

Zimbabwe

A lot of us have been looking at the circumstances around us and we have become despondent – instead of declaring the truth of the Promises of the Word of GOD:

- ◆ We’ve been joining in with the “nay-sayers”.
- ◆ We have been declaring and decreeing fear, doubt and negativity.
- ◆ We’ve been gossiping and slandering.
- ◆ We’ve been getting on to social media ... and joining in with all the worldly conversations that are negative and critical.

- ◆ We have been speaking doubt and fear in to the atmosphere instead of speaking faith and the Word of the LORD.

Look at the Word:

It was in the middle of the famine and there was no sign that the famine was going to end – then the prophet started to declare and decree the truth of the Word of God.

You frame your world with the words that you speak ...

What is coming out of your mouth??

Facebook asks us:

What's on your mind??

We should ask:

What is on GOD's Mind??

If we know what is on God's Mind we will begin to see change and transformation in the world that is around us.

In our era of venting, texting and gossiping and slandering and blogging – all we talk about is how we feel, and so forth.

Let us start talking about what GOD says and not what we feel so we can see the atmosphere turn around.

Elijah went in the midst of a famine – he did not wait until it had all got good.

It's easy to talk positively when everything is awesome. It's easy to just join the crowd.

The hard thing is to speak truth in the face of the negative facts.

Many people around the world are speaking about the facts ...

- ◆ about what is happening in the economy;
- ◆ about what's happening in government;
- ◆ about what's happening in society.

The facts can change - but the TRUTH has the power to change things!!

If you and I can start speaking the TRUTH instead of the facts – we will start to see things turn around and start to change.

Faith comes by **hearing** ... and hearing by the Word of GOD.

Not hearing the latest postings on Facebook, the newspapers or TV news.

We are called to walk by faith and not by sight ...

So many of us are not seeing the promises of GOD in our lives because we are moving by sight and not by faith.

If you only walk by sight and not by faith, you will only do the predictable and what is seen - you will never step in to the unpredictable – the faith realm – the unseen realm.

How did you walk in to 2019 ... full of fear, doubt, unbelief??

Did you walk in with your natural eyes and not your spiritual eyes??

You will never be able to walk in this world with spiritual eyes if you don't feed your faith.

Without faith it is impossible to please GOD.

There is no point walking in the natural if you want to please GOD – I have to continuously stir up the gift of FAITH!!

How do I develop my faith? Must I become some super hero for Jesus?

NO!!!!

Faith comes by hearing .. and hearing by the Word of God ...

So switch off some of the stuff you are listening to – stop following some of the people that you are following – and amplify the Word of God in your life!!!

We need to elevate the place of the Word – not posters and slogans ...

Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path...”

The prophet Elijah declared it will rain in the middle of the famine!!

You don't have to feel rain to know that rain is coming!! You don't have to see a cloud to know that it is coming!!

You don't have to see a cloud first to know it's coming!

But ... if you have ears to hear, you will know it is coming before it ever gets there – and you will live ready for the rain to come before it ever gets there.

Faith comes by hearing – and hearing by the Word of GOD ...

So the enemy has assaulted our hearing – we listen to everything else BUT the Word of the Lord.

“I don't have time to read the Bible”

We have such access to the Word of God in the time and age that we are living in – you can get it in any way you want! In any language and format.

We need a generation that is hungry and passionate for the Word.
What you need to win this nation is FAITH!

- ◆ This is a fight of FAITH!
- ◆ The devil is after your faith!
- ◆ Don't fight people – this is just a distraction.
- ◆ There's only one fight worth fighting for and that is your faith.
- ◆ The devil is not after your stuff! He is after your faith!
- ◆ We have too many unbelieving believers!!
- ◆ We are not trusting that GOD will do what He says He will do.
- ◆ We are selling out for carnality and for temporal pleasures because we do not trust the eternal process.
- ◆ We are looking for short term temporal gain instead of keeping an eternal perspective and daring to trust God by taking steps of faith.

What is your confession over your nation? ... What is your testimony?

You may not be able to see a cloud – it may look like there is extreme famine on all fronts:

- ◆ Spiritually
- ◆ Relationally
- ◆ Financially
- ◆ Physically
- ◆ Emotionally

You are going to frame your world by the words that you speak.

You are going to have to make some decisions to turn some things off and to start declaring ...

Those of us who have come out of a broken childhood have such a warped perspective of who we are in Christ – what our identity is.

We have been listening to the enemy for a long long time – we have learned to believe the lie ..

Romans 12:2 *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

You must learn to swop your thoughts for GOD's Thoughts.

If you don't know what GOD says, you will believe what the devil says every time.

Start writing it down ... then you start declaring it and confessing it out loud.

If you don't do this and arm yourself with the armour of the Word, you will believe what the world says about you – and you will start to focus on the flesh ...

I am not ...

- ◆ smart enough
- ◆ rich enough
- ◆ connected enough
- ◆ talented enough
- ◆ pretty enough
- ◆ handsome enough
- ◆ qualified enough

The world will keep telling you what you are NOT – and you'll never be enough.

If you know who you are in Christ you will stop this battle with your flesh, and start stepping up to what GOD has for you!!

It is not about what we are NOT – it is about WHO HE IS!!

I am going to declare and decree the Promises of the Word of GOD!

GOD is looking for people who have FAITH – not fantasy.

I am going to believe who GOD says He is.

That is exactly what Elijah did – he went to the king in the middle of a famine and he said what GOD said – GOD was going to move and the famine would end.

1 Kings 18:41 “And Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink, for there is a sound of the rushing of rain.”

Listen to what Elijah said: There is a **sound of the rushing of rain!! In the middle of the famine!!**

There are only two types of people in the Body:

1. Those who all they can see is the fact that there is no rain coming, there is blue sky, and scorching sun, and famine.
2. Then there are those sitting right next to you – sitting in exactly the same meeting, hearing exactly the same word, and all they are hearing is the sound of RAIN!!

You get to choose which one you are going to be!!

There is a sound that comes with FAITH.

You hear what other people are not hearing – you hear God speaking at a different frequency ..

When you attune your ear to the Voice of GOD you hear the sound of RAIN!!

1 Kings 18:42-46 “ So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees. And he said to his servant, “Go up now, look toward the sea.” And he went up and looked and said, “There is nothing.” And he said, “Go again,” seven times. **And at the seventh time he said, “Behold, a little cloud like a man’s hand is rising from the sea.”** And he said, “Go up, say to Ahab, ‘Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.’” And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and **there was a great rain.** And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the Lord was on Elijah, and he gathered up his garment and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

I want you to see where many of us give up on our faith ... you still go to church and sing all the songs – but you don’t believe what you sing ... they just make you feel good ..

But you have been disappointed in GOD and gave up believing in Him.

Somewhere along the line you started to believe – GOD does it for others ... but it won’t work out for me.

- ◆ That financial breakthrough is not going to happen for me
- ◆ That ministry opportunity is not going to happen for me
- ◆ That job promotion will not work out for me

We still go through the emotions of church but in our hearts we pull back from believing GOD and His Promises.

Then you think – well it worked for Elijah – he was a man of faith ...

But the **Book of James** tells us that Elijah was a man just like one of us.

James 5:17 “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.”

What he did was he **prayed and believed GOD.**

Prayer is the KEY to everything.

Prayer is the PORTAL that brings Heaven to earth.

A lot of us is not seeing the breakthrough because we are prayer-less.

We stopped praying because God did not answer our prayer in our time-frame.

We gave God a due date on our prayer ... and when it did not happen – we decided to do things our own way. We picked up offence towards God.

- ◆ We prayed once and got disappointed
- ◆ We prayed for that healing and got discouraged
- ◆ We prayed once for that job opportunity
- ◆ We tithed once and did not become the millionaire they said I would!

So then we give up on all the Christian “stuff” – you go through the motions but not living a real believer’s life on the edge.

We don’t live a life of FAITH because somewhere we have given up.

We saw in the scripture: Elijah went up to pray ...

He stuck his head between his knees ... and PRAYED – did not look around at all the world had to say.

Do not be swayed by the circumstances – or what the people say – or what you see around you ...

FIVE TIMES he sends his assistant to go and look for the rain!!

- ◆ Come on!! Can’t you see the finances in this country has no value??
- ◆ Can’t you see it is impossible to even think to prosper?
- ◆ Don’t you know what is going on in your own country??
- ◆ All you need to do is to carry on praying .. BUT NOTHING IS HAPPENING!!!

Keep on;

- praying,
- singing,
- tithing,
- serving.

And you think it’s a waste of time!! You think nothing is happening because SIX times you went to look – and saw ... NOTHING!!!

What you don’t understand is that while you are seeing nothing – God is moving!!

SEVENTH TIME!!! A cloud as big as a man’s hand that is rising ...

He saw something – but he doesn’t see much ...

Because it is not everything – you think it is nothing ..

For every time the servant ran and saw nothing – God was busy working.

Precipitation and condensation!!!

GOD was busy drawing stuff out of the ground that was going to form a cloud that would then carry the rain that would fall on the earth.

- ◆ Why should I go to church again?
- ◆ Why should I give again?
- ◆ Why should I keep myself morally pure?
- ◆ Why should I keep myself set-apart from all my friends who are having such fun?
- ◆ Why must I make a stand for Jesus again?

To get the showers of blessings poured out all over you – so much you can't contain it .. you have to keep going on – living the Godly lifestyle – set apart for HIS purposes only ... **DON'T STOP!!!**

The whole time God is getting the clouds ready .. but you stop ... because you are not seeing anything happen ..

- ◆ We thought God had given up on us ...
- ◆ We thought God had forgotten us ...
- ◆ We thought the Promise was not for us ...

BUT!!!!

I want to encourage you – it's time to go **AGAIN!!!**

- ◆ It's time to seek God **AGAIN!**
- ◆ It's time to believe God **AGAIN!**
- ◆ It's time to pray for that healing **AGAIN!**
- ◆ It's time to stir up that gift of faith **AGAIN!**

You have to go **AGAIN!**

And you must **KNOW** that God is moving every time you are going again!!

You've seen a cloud the size of a man's hand ... but you've despised the day of small beginnings ..

- ◆ But you were waiting for the **BIG** promotion
- ◆ You were waiting for the **BIG** opportunity
- ◆ You were waiting for the spectacular spotlight

But **GOD** says: "*Start where you are*".

- ◆ Start with what you have

- ◆ Serve with what you have
- ◆ Fill in the gap wherever it is
- ◆ Allow GOD to do what only GOD can do!!

If you despise the day of small beginnings you are never going to step in to the fullness of what GOD has ..

Because everything always starts small – but you've got to keep going!!!

- ◆ Get up and go AGAIN!
- ◆ GOD can heal any disease!!
- ◆ GOD can meet any need!!!
- ◆ GOD can save any soul!!!
- ◆ GOD can fix any heart!!

There is nothing that GOD can't restore,

Or nothing that GOD can't reconcile

There is no sea that GOD cannot part

There is no wall that GOD cannot break down

THERE IS NOTHING THAT YOUR GOD CANNOT DO

GO AGAIN!!

AMEN!!!