

1 Kings 18:41-46

「 Introduction 」

We have learned about prayer this year in our small group meetings. Here's what we have covered so far.

[Ch 1] Pray Like a Child

[Ch 2] Spend Time with the Father

[Ch 3] God Is Transcendent and Personal

[Ch 4] God Is Weaving His Story

[Ch 5] Raising Children Through Prayer

[Ch 6] Understanding the Lord's Will

[Ch 7] The Gospel Stories Are Being Written

[Ch 8] Prayer, the Heart of the Gospel

[Ch 9] Why Do We Pray If God Knows Everything?

This is a wide range of topics on prayer. All of the past small group guides are available on our website. Today will be the last session on prayer and we will see how the highest form of prayer is praying for God's will.

「 Mediation 」

Prayer is an honest conversation with God. We not only pray to God for our earnest wishes, urgent matters, and desperate situations, but also for small things in everyday life as well as practical and emotional needs. Our privilege as children of God is to have this intimacy through prayer. Nevertheless, the highest and most beautiful prayer of all is through holding onto the will of God.

「 Into the Word 」

Read 1 Kings 18:41-46.

- **Desperately, until the end**

The famous passage covers the story of Elijah's prayer. Elijah prayed for rain upon the land that had been dry for three and half years.

TIP

At the time, the northern kingdom of Israel was severely corrupt with Baal worship. The ancient sources describe Baal as the god of storms and fertility, which was associated with controlling rain. And rain was essential for agricultural societies. Israel abandoned God and lusted after Baal believing it would send rain. But God meant to show Israel through the drought that He is the true God and only He controls the rain.

1. Elijah desperately prayed.

"... 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." (1 Kings 18:42)

[Meditate] Have you ever prayed so desperately like Elijah?

2. Elijah prayed until the end.

"“There is nothing.” And he said, “Go again,” seven times.” (1 Kings 18:43)

Number 7 represents perfection in the Bible, which means that Elijah was willing to pray until it rained.

- **Holding onto God's Will**

It's worth pointing out that Elijah did not pray in order to change God's will. Elijah didn't fast, struggle, or appeal to God screaming for help or asking to change His mind. It was actually God's will to send rain at the time.

“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.”” (1 Kings 18:1)

God told Elijah to go because He was about to send rain! It was His will to send rain. Elijah’s prayer was not about fulfilling his desires or wishes, but praying through holding onto God’s will.

- **The attitude of one who knows God’s will**

How do you think about God’s will? Do you have the tendency to think, ‘God’s plans will be done since He’s God...’ All of God’s plans will certainly be done on earth. But the people of faith in the Bible desperately prayed even seven times with their faces between their knees upon learning God’s will that His will be done on earth. This is the proper attitude of ones who know God’s will.

- **Application**

Let us reflect on our attitudes toward God despite knowing that God has a great plan for our lives, our families, our children, and our church.

Could there be a heart of disobedience like Jonah’s in our hearts? Jonah unwillingly ended up in Nineveh and preached judgment in 40 days. After proclaiming God’s words, he then went up to a high place and waited for the next 40 days to see what happens next. He would wait and watch what happens since God definitely spoke. This is clearly not the proper attitude of one who knows God’s will.

- **The highest of prayer of all**

The Bible teaches us to pray that God’s will be done.

“I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it. “Thus says the Lord God: This also I will let the house of Israel ask me to do for them.”” (Ezekiel 36:36b-37a)

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10)

May God’s will for my family be done
May the Lord’s calling upon my workplace be done
May the Father’s great plan for my life be done
May God’s will for our church be done
Let us become a people of prayer.

「 Sharing 」

1. Is your attitude towards God’s like Jonah’s? Or Elijah’s? Share one thing that touched your heart the most in this meeting.
2. Share one major answered prayer in 2024.
3. Share your end-of-year prayer request and spend some time praying for one another.