

Elijah: Holding Steady  
Modern Struggles/Ancient Lessons Series  
Pastor Bill Bowers  
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Bible Passage Today: 1 Kings 15:25-19:18

1. Elijah: Setting the Context (1 Kings 15:25-16:34)
2. Elijah: Experiencing God's Power and Victory (1 Kings 17:1-6; 17:7-24)
  - Are you being faithful with your tithe to God?
  - Are you being responsive to the needs of the poor?
  - Are you learning to take risks in giving that stretch your faith?
  - Are you giving in a way that is becoming a natural part of how you live?
  - Are you noticing God's generous provision in your life and responding by growing more generous toward others?

See Luke 6:38

Syncretism=the effort to embrace various religious systems at the same time.

A Baal is anything that can tempt us away from full devotion to God.

- Is there a *relationship* that dishonors God?
- Is there a *lifestyle* that keeps you from being generous to the poor?
- Is there a *habit* or an *addiction* that you know God wants you to give up?
- Is there a *grudge* against someone who has really hurt you?
- Is there a struggle with *pride* and the power it has over you?
- Is there anything that is *diverting your devotion* from God?

3. Elijah: Meeting God in the Depths of Despair (1Kings 19:1-9)

The question is not, "Will I ever visit the valley?" The real issue is, "How will I respond when I visit the valley?"

"Extraordinary afflictions are not always the punishment of extraordinary sins, but sometimes the trial of extraordinary graces. Sanctified afflictions are spiritual promotions." Matthew Henry

4. Elijah: A Fresh Beginning (1 Kings 19:10-18)

"The lament is an appeal to God's compassion to intervene and change a desperate situation...they raise a cry out of the depths in the confidence that God has the power to lift a person out of the 'miry bog' and set one's feet upon a rock. Hence the laments are really expressions of praise—praise offered in a minor key in the confidence that Yahweh is faithful and in anticipation of a new lease on life." Bernhard W. Anderson