

SERMON TOPIC:

Where Is God In My Suffering?

SERMON SUMMARY

This week's sermon discusses the story of Elijah from 1 Kings 19, focusing on his journey from victory to despair and God's restoration. After Elijah's triumph over the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, he flees in fear from Queen Jezebel's death threat. In his lowest moment, feeling alone and wanting to die, God ministers to him through rest, food, and ultimately His presence - not in dramatic displays but in a gentle whisper. The sermon emphasizes God's faithfulness even when we feel like giving up.

1. God cares about our physical and emotional well-being, not just our spiritual state
2. We are never truly alone in our faith journey - God always has others who remain faithful
God often works in gentle, quiet ways rather than through dramatic displays
4. Even great spiritual leaders can experience depression and doubt
5. God's response to our despair is compassion and restoration, not condemnation

KEY VERSES

- **1 Kings 19:4**
- **1 Kings 19:11-12**
- **1 Kings 19:18**
- **James 5:17-18**

QUESTIONS

What caused Elijah to go from such a high point of victory to such a low point of despair?

- Why do you think God first addressed Elijah's physical needs (rest and food) before addressing his spiritual needs?
- Have you ever felt alone in your faith like Elijah did? How did God encourage you during that time?
- What does it tell us about God that He wasn't in the wind, earthquake, or fire, but in the gentle whisper?
- How does God's response to Elijah's depression and fear demonstrate His character?
- What's the significance of God telling Elijah there were 7,000 others who hadn't bowed to Baal?
How does this passage challenge our expectations of how God should work in our lives?
- What practical lessons can we learn from this story about dealing with spiritual burnout?

LIFE APPLICATION

This week, when you feel overwhelmed or alone, take time to intentionally rest and listen for God's gentle whisper. Find a quiet place where you can be alone with God for at least 15 minutes each day, and journal what He reveals to you during these times.