

WHEN YOU'RE DOWN, LET GOD LIFT YOU UP

LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

How can we prepare for the low points we inevitably face in life? The life of the prophet Elijah provides us with inspiration and wisdom. Despite his close relationship with God and being filled with His Spirit, Elijah also encountered significant challenges. James 5:17-18 reminds us that Elijah faced struggles just like we do. Instead of turning to God, we often escape and seek temporary satisfaction in distractions, amusements, or other people. While these may offer momentary relief, it is only God who can provide the best and lasting source of encouragement when we feel down. As followers of Jesus, we are called to embrace a supernatural, Spirit-filled existence that should permeate our everyday lives, helping us navigate both the highs and lows of life.

THE HIGHS: REMEMBER (1 KINGS 17:1-9; 1 KINGS 18:1-2,17-45)

In 1 Kings 17, Elijah confronted Ahab, the wicked king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, who led the nation into idol worship. Elijah prophesied a severe three-and-a-half-year drought that would affect everyone, including himself. Astonishingly, even during this period of drought, Elijah experienced remarkable encounters with God. Despite the scarcity of water, God provided for Elijah by leading him to a brook that served as a water source, and ravens brought him bread and meat twice a day. When the brook eventually dried up, God assured Elijah that a Gentile widow would sustain him throughout the famine. This teaches us that even during challenging times, we can experience significant spiritual highs with God.

After three and a half years, Elijah proposed a challenge to Ahab. He gathered all of Israel, including the false prophets, at Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:17-20). Elijah urged the people to choose whom they would follow. The subsequent showdown resulted in an incredible victory for God through Elijah. It was undoubtedly a high point in Elijah's life. He fervently prayed, and rain was miraculously restored. This story reminds us that God abundantly blesses us when we take the time to recognize and remember His goodness and faithfulness (Psalm 103:1-5).

THE LOWS: RUN TO GOD (1 KINGS 19:1-18)

Upon hearing about Elijah's successful confrontation, Ahab's wicked wife Jezebel threatened to kill him (1 Kings 19:1-2). Elijah knew that Jezebel had already murdered many prophets, so her threat carried weight. Like us, Elijah found it easy to forget the high points when faced with low moments. Suddenly, the low point became overwhelming, and fear consumed him. Elijah fled, leaving his servant behind, and even contemplated giving up on life.

Elijah sought refuge at Horeb, also known as Mount Sinai, where Moses had received the Ten Commandments. There, Elijah encountered God and poured out his heart to Him. Surprisingly, God's presence was not in the mighty wind, earthquake, or fire, but in a gentle whisper. God spoke to Elijah and gave him a meaningful assignment: anointing Jehu and Elisha, indicating that his mission was not yet complete. God reassured Elijah that he was not alone, reminding him that 7,000 faithful men had not bowed down to the false god Baal. This highlights the importance of redirecting our thoughts towards God's goodness, as it can lead to a shift in our emotions and actions. Meditating on God's faithfulness becomes a source of strength and encouragement during difficult times, reminding us that God is always present, offering comfort and guidance.

THE FINISH: REST ASSURED (1 KINGS 19:19,21; 2 KINGS 2:11-12)

Elijah faithfully followed God's instructions. He passed on his leadership mantle to Elisha (1 Kings 19:19, 21) and concluded his life with a glorious ending (2 Kings 2:11-12).

Hebrews 12:1-2 encourages us to continue running the race of life with endurance. To finish well, we should remember the high points, celebrating God's faithfulness and the victories we have experienced. During the low points, it is crucial to seek refuge in God, relying on His strength and guidance. Ultimately, our focus should always be fixed on Jesus, who serves as the perfect example of endurance and is the ultimate source of our hope and motivation.

LAST WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

JAMES 5:17-18

DISCUSS THIS MESSAGE

What are some of your life's high moments with the Lord?
Take turns in sharing; also thank and worship the Lord for these.

What are some low points in your life? Are you going through one now?
Take time to encourage and pray for one another.

Are you 100% sure you will go to heaven? Why or why not?
How does being sure of your salvation impact how you live your life today?

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WOMEN2WOMEN ALL WOMEN

Hey, Bro. Joe!: How-To: Live in God's Love and Sovereignty

with Astrid Ocaya

June 15, Thursday, 10:00 AM, MPH



ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

 ccfwomen2women
 CCFWomen2WomenMinistry

Women Living Free

for women seeking answers on gender identity and God's design

Wednesdays, 7:00 PM via Zoom




 (0917) 545 9129
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B1G MINISTRY SINGLES

B1G Fridays

July 14, Friday, 7:30 PM, MPH

ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE




  B1GMinistry
 beonewithgod

NXTGEN KIDS FROM 4-12 YEARS OLD

The Finishers

Sundays, 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM
G/F North Wing, CCF Center

ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

  ccfnxtgen for ages 4-12
 zoom for ages 7-12

LEARN MORE

ABOUT THE FAITH

Continue to be equipped in your discipleship journey.

Join GLC's new training cycle this June 2023!

GLC Level 1 — Face-to-Face

June 11, Sunday

Book 1: One by One
1:00 PM, Room 2A

Book 3: The Holy Spirit
3:00 PM, Room 3A

GLC Level 1 — Zoom Cycle 2

June 14, Wednesday, 7:30 PM

Book 1: One by One
Book 3: The Holy Spirit

GLC Level 2 — Face to Face

Book 5: Starting Point for Small Groups
June 11, Sunday, 1:00 PM, Room 3A

GLC Level 2 — Zoom Cycle 1

Book 5: Starting Point for Small Groups
June 15, Thursday, 7:30 PM

GLC Level 3 Lead — Zoom Cycle 1

Module 1: The Multiplier
June 15, Thursday, 7:30 PM

Go to bit.ly/GLCTraining2023 to register



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LOOKING FOR ANSWERS? THINK YOUR VISIT IS A COINCIDENCE? YOUR BEING HERE TODAY IS NO ACCIDENT!

God brought you here for His purpose.

1 God loves you.

He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

*Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who **keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness** to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments — Deuteronomy 7:9*

2 God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from Him.

Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. — Romans 3:23

3 God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life for eternity.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. — Romans 5:8

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. — John 14:6

4 God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. — John 3:16

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. — Ephesians 2:8-9

5 God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life when you trust in Jesus.

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. — 1 John 5:11-13






SERVICES AT THE CCF CENTER

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE AT THE MPH 5:00 PM

SUNDAY SERVICES AT THE MAIN AUDITORIUM 10:00 AM (English), 3:00 PM (Filipino)

ONLINE LIVESTREAMS 10:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM

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