

Elijah, the Tishbite

In Hiding
1 Kings 19:9–18

That night a messenger aroused the weary prophet and delivered to him the word of Jezebel: “So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.”

–PK 159.2

. . . in this dark hour his **faith and courage**
forsook him. (*PK 159.3*)

Beersheba was on the southern frontier of Judah, about 95 miles (152 km) from Jezreel. It belonged to the southern kingdom of Judah, which was at this time so closely associated with Israel that Elijah would not have been safe there, so he went a day's journey into the wilderness, where he slept and ate and then traveled forty days and nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

When he arrived at Horeb, the mountain of God, he spent the night in a cave to shelter from the frigid night temperatures there. It was at this same place Moses first met God in the burning bush (at the base of the mountain; Ex. 3:1–5), where he struck a rock and water flowed (Ex. 17:6), and where he received the Ten Commandments [Deuteronomy 5:2]. (David Tasker, *Andrews Bible Commentary*, Old Testament, p. 495).

Elijah should not have fled from his post of duty. He should have met the threat of Jezebel with an appeal for protection to the One who had commissioned him to vindicate the honor of Jehovah. He should have told the messenger that the God in whom he trusted would protect him against the hatred of the queen. (*PK 160.1*)

. . . in this dark hour his **faith and courage** forsook him. (*PK 159.3*)

Only a few hours had passed since he had witnessed a wonderful manifestation of divine power, and this should have given him assurance that he would not now be forsaken. Had he **remained where he was**, had he **made God his refuge and strength**, standing **steadfast for the truth**, he would have been shielded from harm. The Lord would have given him another signal victory by sending His judgments on Jezebel; and the impression made on the king and the people would have wrought a great reformation. (*PK 160.1*)

1. Remained where he was
2. Made God his refuge and strength
3. Stood steadfast for truth

Into the experience of all there come times of keen disappointment and utter discouragement — days when sorrow is the portion, and it is hard to believe that God is still the kind benefactor of His earthborn children; days when troubles harass the soul, till death seems preferable to life.

—PK 162.1

It is then that many lose their hold on God
and are brought into the slavery of **doubt**,
the bondage of **unbelief**.

–*PK* 162.1

Could we at such times discern with spiritual insight the meaning of God's providences we should see angels seeking to save us from ourselves, striving to plant our feet upon a foundation more firm than the everlasting hills, and new faith, new life, would spring into being.

—PK 162.1

They that trust in the LORD *shall be* as mount Zion, *which* cannot be removed, *but* abideth for ever. *As* the mountains *are* round about Jerusalem, so the LORD *is* round about his people from henceforth even for ever.

Psalm 125: 1–2

Come now, and **let us reason together**, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*. (Isaiah 1:18–20)

The LORD reasoned with Elijah.

- What doest thou here, Elijah?
- Great and strong wind
- Earthquake
- Fire
- Still, small voice

Still, small voice

- Still small — dǎq — gentle whisper, soft
- Calmness without winds or waves

Instructions

- Return to wilderness of Damascus and anoint Hazael to be king over Syria
- Anoint Jehu to be king over Israel
- Anoint Elisha to be prophet in thy room

The LORD also came to reason
with Job.

- Job 3:3; 6:8–9
- Job 13:13
- Job 19:6–8, 18, 21–22; 25–28
- Job 38:1
- “The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind” (Job 38:1), and revealed to His servant the might of His power. When Job caught a glimpse of his Creator, he abhorred himself and repented in dust and ashes. Then the Lord was able to bless him abundantly and to make his last years the best of his life. (*PK 164.2*)

Hope and courage are essential to perfect service for God. These are the **fruit of faith**. Despondency is sinful and unreasonable. God is able and willing “more abundantly” (Hebrews 6:17) to bestow upon His servants the strength they need for test and trial. The plans of the enemies of His work may seem to be well laid and firmly established, but God can overthrow the strongest of these. And this He does in His own time and way, **when** He sees that the faith of His servants has been sufficiently tested.

-PK 164.3

For the disheartened there is a sure remedy — faith, prayer, work. Faith and activity will impart assurance and satisfaction that will increase day by day. Are you tempted to give way to feelings of anxious foreboding or utter despondency? In the darkest days, when appearances seem most forbidding, **fear not. Have faith in God.** He knows your need. He has all power. His infinite love and compassion never weary. Fear not that He will fail of fulfilling His promise.

—PK 164.4

He is eternal truth. Never will He change the covenant He has made with those who love Him. And He will bestow upon His faithful servants the measure of efficiency that their need demands. The apostle Paul has testified: “He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness....Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:9, 10.

-PK 164.4

- Infirmities — sickness, disease, weakness
- Reproaches — insolence, arrogance, insult, mistreatment
- Necessities — trouble, troublous times, hardships
- Persecutions — chase, harass
- Distresses — difficulty, anguish, trouble

Faith and Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

When Jesus was upon the earth, He taught His disciples how to pray. He directed them to present their daily needs before God, and to cast all their care upon Him. (*SC 93.3*)

Through nature and revelation, through His providence, and by the influence of His Spirit, **God speaks to us.** But these are not enough; **we need also to pour out our hearts to Him.** In order to have spiritual life and energy, we must have actual relationship with our heavenly Father. Our minds may be drawn out toward Him; we may meditate upon His works, His mercies, His blessings; but this is not, in the fullest sense, communing with Him. In order to commune with God, we must have something to say to Him concerning our actual life. (*SC 93.1*)

Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us **to receive Him**. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him. (*SC 93.2*)

Our heavenly Father waits to bestow upon us the fullness of His blessing. It is our privilege to drink largely at the fountain of boundless love. What a wonder it is that we pray so little! God is ready and willing to hear the sincere prayer of the humblest of His children, and yet there is much manifest reluctance on our part to make known our wants to God. (*SC 94.1*)

What can the angels of heaven think of poor helpless human beings, who are subject to temptation, when God's heart of infinite love yearns toward them, ready to give them more than they can ask or think, and yet they pray so little and have so little faith? The angels love to bow before God; they love to be near Him. They regard communion with God as their highest joy; and yet the children of earth, who need so much the help that God only can give, seem satisfied to walk without the light of His Spirit, the companionship of His presence. (*SC 94.1*)

Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. **You cannot burden Him;** you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children. “The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.” James 5:11. His heart of love is touched by our sorrows and even by our utterances of them. Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He holds up worlds, He rules over all the affairs of the universe. (*SC 100.1*)

Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice. There is no chapter in our experience too dark for Him to read; there is no perplexity too difficult for Him to unravel. No calamity can befall the least of His children, no anxiety harass the soul, no joy cheer, no sincere prayer escape the lips, of which our heavenly Father is unobservant, or in which He takes no immediate interest. (*SC 100.1*)

“He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.” Psalm 147:3. The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watchcare, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son. (*SC* 100.1)

It was because Elijah was a man of large faith that God could use him in this grave crisis in the history of Israel. *As he prayed, his faith reached out and grasped the promises of Heaven, and he persevered in prayer until his petitions were answered. (PK 156.3)*

He did not wait for the full evidence that God had heard him, but was willing to venture all on the slightest token of divine favor. And yet what he was enabled to do under God, all may do in their sphere of activity in God's service; for of the prophet from the mountains of Gilead it is written: "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months." James 5:17. (*PK 156.3*)

Faith such as this is needed in the world today — faith that will lay **hold on the promises of God's word and refuse to let go until Heaven hears**. Faith such as this connects us closely with Heaven, and brings us strength for coping with the powers of darkness.

Through faith God's children have “subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.” Hebrews 11:33, 34. (*PK 157.1*)

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

–1 Corinthians 10:13

Elisha of Abel-meholah

1 Kings 19:19–21