

## GOD IS NOT MOVED BY OUR DOUBTS

TEXT: (I Kings 17:17-24, NIV)

<sup>17</sup> Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. <sup>18</sup> She said to Elijah, "What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?"

<sup>19</sup> "Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. <sup>20</sup> Then he cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?" <sup>21</sup> Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!"

<sup>22</sup> The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. <sup>23</sup> Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!"

<sup>24</sup> Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth."

### I. THE COLLAPSE OF FAITH

#### A. Establishing Faith through Doubting

1. "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" (Matthew 11:3, NIV).
2. "How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, 'Violence!' but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted" (Habakkuk 1:2-4, NIV).

#### B. Surrender of Self-centeredness

1. "O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together" (Psalm 34:3, KJV).
2. "I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving" (Psalm 6:30, KJV).
3. "Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills...

Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence. All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning.

When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny" (Psalm 73:1-5, 13-17, NIV).

#### C. Blessed Assurance

1. "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" (Matthew 11:3, NIV).

### II. THE OPERATION of FAITH

1. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16, KJV).

#### A. Remains Calm in Crisis

1. "Give me your son,' Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the

upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed” (I Kings 17:19, NIV).

2. “When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. ‘Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?’ the servant asked.

‘Don’t be afraid,’ the prophet answered. ‘Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’

And Elisha prayed, ‘Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.’ Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha” (II Kings 6:15-17, NIV).

3. “When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?” (Psalm 56:3-4, NIV).

#### B. Takes the Problem to the Problem Solver

1. “Then he cried out to the LORD, ‘LORD my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?’” (I Kings 17:20, NIV).
2. "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Hebrews 4:16, NIV).
3. “You do not have because you do not ask God” (James 4:2, NIV).
4. “When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures” (James 4:3, NIV).

### III. THE LORD HEARD

1. “The LORD heard Elijah’s cry, and the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived. Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, “Look, your son is alive!” (II Kings 17:22-23, NIV).

#### A. A God Who Responds to the Needs of His People

1. "The LORD said, 'I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians'" (Exodus 3:7-8, NIV).
2. "Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. 'Quick, get up!' he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists" (Acts 12:7, NIV).
3. "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose" (Acts 16:25-26, NIV).

### CONCLUSION

1. "Then my enemies will turn back when I call for help. By this I will know that God is for me" (Psalm 56:9, NIV).
2. "If God is for us, who can be against us" (Romans 8:31, NIV)?
3. “What do you mean, ‘If I can?’” Jesus asked. “Anything is possible if a person believes.”

The father instantly cried out, “I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!” (Mark 9:23-24, NLT).

#### Questions:

1. Discuss: Is it sin to doubt? When would it be sin?
2. How does questioning develop our faith?
3. How do you refocus your faith when you feel fear?
4. Memorize Bible verses that are meaningful to you in overcoming fear and doubt.