
LIQUID SUNSHINE

Learning from the Relational Prayers of Elijah



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INTRODUCTION

Relational prayer is the key to conceiving God's will on the earth. This kind of prayer begins with receiving the invitation to meet with God and it leads to insight. Relational prayer is a conversation between you and God. It's not about trying to get something you think you need or attempting to show that you are more "holy" than everyone else around you. It is about accepting God's invitation to meet one on one. When this meeting takes place, you are given great insight. You understand things that you could not possibly figure out on your own. So, discover the great blessing of relational prayer by connecting with God.

Chapter 1

PERSISTENCE

Elijah was a person just like you and me when it came to physical, mental and even spiritual limitations. However, he understood the tremendous power of heartfelt persistent prayer. He relationally prayed by connecting with God and the rain of Israel stopped for three and a half years. Just think about how much influence that would have on King Ahab (The Ruler of Israel). Elijah's prayer captured the attention of the nation because the rain stopped for 3 1/2 years. He did not stop there! He travailed in prayer and the rain came pouring down once again. This caused the land to go back to producing crops. It's important to realize that this was all done by someone just like us. He simply understood the power of persistent prayer (James 5:17-18).

We can learn so much from Elijah's persistent prayer life. His prayers stopped and started the rain because they were relational prayers. This kind of prayer is influential in heaven and activation on earth. This kind of prayer will nourish your life. As you pray in this way, your life will line up with God's will.

'Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. '

James 5:17-18

Relational prayer is the key to conceiving God's will on the earth. This kind of prayer begins with receiving the invitation to meet with God and it leads to insight. Relational prayer is a conversation between you and God. It's not about trying to get something you think you need or attempting to show that you are more "holy" than everyone else around you. It is about accepting God's invitation to meet one on one. When this meeting takes place, you are given great insight. You understand things that you could not possibly figure out on your own. So, discover the great blessing of relational prayer by connecting with God.

Influential is the word that describes what happens to you when you pray relational prayers. You are influenced by God because you ascend above all of the influences surrounding you. Because of this transformation in you, you appear differently to those around you. It's like a pregnant woman when she starts to show. You know that there is growth happening within her because you can see how she appears differently. So, influence moves in you and through you.

Activation of God's will comes to you by way of Him becoming the influencer of your life. He speaks to you and shows you the way to live, speak, and think. You gain great knowledge of what you can command away with a clear "no" and what you can allow to take place by way of making noise. Knowing God's will calls for us to say "no" sometimes. What if Adam and Eve told Satan "no" back in the garden? What if you say "no" the next time something attempts to take you outside of God's will? Also, you can make some noise by saying "yes" to things that need to take place. It's time for us to make some noise on the earth!

The noise we are going to make must come from heaven! It must be a louder noise than any sound that earth can make! It's time for activation!

So, here we go:

(1) Put aside any feeling that you need to pray to get something from God. God already knows what's best for you and he wants you to have it more than you could ever realize. As a matter of fact, what He has for you is way above what you could think to ask for yourself. So, take your hand out and act as if you are throwing all selfishness away as if it was a baseball.

(2) Realize that God is The Father of all and he does not need for you to point out where everyone else is falling short. So, all you have to do is realize what He is saying to you.

(3) Pray a relational prayer by recognizing that God has given you an invitation. The fact that you are interacting with this message right now shows that God is already reaching out an invitation to you. Accept the invitation.

(4) Receive the insight that God is touching you with right now. It could be a word you hear Him speaking inside of you. It could be a feeling you are having.

Don't make it too complicated. Simply choose to receive what the Lord has for you at this moment.

(5) Rise up above all of the distraction and simply tune into what God is saying. Musical instruments need to be tuned to make the right sound. Your life needs to be tuned into hearing the sound of heaven. Listen closely...

(6) Ask God to show you what you need to say "no" to in your life. Now, speak it out loud and say "no" to whatever it is that stands in the way.

(7) Ask God the Father to show you where you need to make some noise. Heaven is moved by noise on the earth. When you line your words with God's will, then God moves in that area.

Nourishing is needed. The actions of this message are not intended to be an annual event. They are intended to be a daily occurrence. So, nourish your faith by persistent prayer. As this happens, it's like enjoying the refreshment of the rain as the sun shines on your face. It's like liquid sunshine.

Chapter 2

TAKING A STAND

Dew is formed when the atmosphere condenses on cool surfaces at night. Elijah went in to speak when King Ahab during a dark time in Israel (I Kings 17:1).

Evil was able to prevail because the provision was in abundance. Elijah cut off the provision by the Word of the Lord. Edmund Burke once wrote, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Elijah did something. Israel was cold toward the things of God. Elijah came to call down the fire. There comes a time when enough is enough! Elijah declared this as that moment for Israel. Elijah called for a shift in the atmosphere. Dew is on the ground in the morning because of the atmospheric shift at night. Wonders are worked by words! So, we learn from Elijah that we should do something about the problems confronting us, know when enough is enough, and see wonders worked by our words.

Do something! In order for us to do something correctly, we must evaluate, expect, and engage. President Dwight D. Eisenhower was credited as saying, "things are more like they are right now than they ever have been." Eisenhower was a leader who brought order back to the world because he was willing to confront Hitler by taking the fight to him. He brought things back to the way they should be. He evaluated Europe and discovered ways to outsmart His enemy by confronting him in full force. He expected to win the battle at Normandy. With that expectation, he confronted the enemy.

What do you need to confront? Take time to prayerfully evaluate the challenge standing before you, your family, and those around you. Turn your eyes upon Jesus and expect Him to help you. Engage the enemy with the full knowledge that God gives you.

Enough is enough! For Elijah, that moment came and he went after it with full force by waking up from dreaming about it, walking up to Ahab, and warning Him of what was to come. He was not satisfied to stay sleeping on the unrighteousness in Israel! He refused to just sit there! He woke up with an

intent on his mind. He walked right up to Ahab. There comes a point when we all have to wake up from our sleep and walk up to our challenge. He warned Ahab of what was to come. Are you ready to serve a warning on the challenge confronting you? Are you at the point that enough is enough? That's a rhetorical question. Go do something about the thing that is standing in your way!

Wonders are worked by words! You may have heard it said, "sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." I'm telling you that words can break the back of the very thing that confronts you. When God gives you the right words you can use them to move the mountains standing in your way!

Chapter 3

KNOWING YOUR TRUE IDENTITY

Elijah was shifted from feeling alone to becoming a mentor. It did not happen in the way that a fairy tale writer would put it together. It happened in a way only reality can reveal (I Kings 19:9-21). If this text were fantasy it would have gone from Elijah defeating the prophet's of Baal to him starting a school of the prophets and they would have transformed the nation. However, this is not fantasy! This is real life! Elijah's great legacy was born out of the lesson that came in the middle of his greatest failure.

Perspective comes when we settle down and remember our true identity. Elijah just stood there when the massive winds blew, the earth quaked, and the fire raged. He settled down to listen for the gentle wind. Knowing your identity does not come by the way of obstinance. It comes from an inner observance of who you truly are. Elijah was running from a woman who was obstinate about the things of God. God was showing him how to stand in faith before the only one who is all powerful. When we choose to settle down before the Lord, we can remember that we belong to Him. Elijah was brought back to observance by the touch of God.

Opportunities are recognized when we open up our heart's eyes to see what God provides. We must move past the anchor of fear and pass into the action of faith. Elijah was running in fear and God asked Him "what are you doing here, Elijah." This was not a physical location question. God is omnipresent and knows exactly where we've been, are, and where we are going. So, this was a rhetorical question for Elijah to use to self-see. God was reminding Elijah about his great identity. He was helping him see the anchor of fear that was holding him back. God does this for us. He helps us to see how the fear of future failure that is based on past failure can anchor us down. This past has not seen the future. Only the future has seen the past. So, tell your past about your future rather than telling your future about your past. When God told Elijah what to do next, he was able to pull up the anchor and move to action. He started the next chapter of his life. He was able to see a lot of mentoring

opportunities. When he thought that he was all alone, he was not recognizing what was in front of him. A talk with God sent him into action.

Time with God leads to accessing His resources. Elijah was being kept back by his fear. He was not recognizing what God had available to him because he had been running away. When he had a meeting with God he was given the key to unlocking the potential of others. Realize that Elijah thought he was alone up until this point. He thought that he was the only one who cared about God. This was a lie from the enemy. God gave him the key to unlocking a door that leads to him training up groups of prophets. We see at the end of his life that there were many under his influence. It was at this point when things changed.

Elijah came to know his true identity by coming before the Lord. He was running in fear and he turned back around in faith. Our faith is built on what we hear from God. Are you running from something right now? If so, settle down before the Lord. Open up to see the opportunities He has for you. As you do this you will gain access to God's resources and from that point, you can know your true identity.

Chapter 4

INFLUENCING THE LAND

We can learn so much about prayer when we take a deep look at the closing moments of Elijah's life. We come to discover that he does not try to manipulate people. Rather, he influences the land. As a result, people desire to follow him. By the end of his life, we see that there are companies of prophets following his teaching. More specifically, there is a young man named Elisha who followed Elijah and learned everything he could from him. After Elijah ascends into heaven he gives his cloak (representing his identity) to Elisha and Elisha becomes an influencer of the land. When we pray, we change the world by influencing the land.

"Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. "Where now is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over." **II Kings 2:13,14**

The light of heaven shines on the land as we pray. This awakens life and activates growth. Think about it this way, when the sun comes up the plants reach for it and they begin to grow. We need to apply this same concept to our prayer life by praying for the lights to come on. When we are faced with an attack on our character we should pray for the lights to come on. We don't have to prove ourselves to anyone when the truth is clearly seen. If the lights come on and you discover you've been wrong all along. Well, then you can simply turn to God and ask for forgiveness. God gave His Son Jesus Christ so that we could walk in forgiveness as we turn away from our evil actions. When the lights come on people wake up. I woke up to the reality of salvation when someone prayed for me. This is how people are able to wake up. Hey, some might hit the snooze alarm. Some might throw the covers over their head. But, it's much harder for them to continue sleeping when the light shines brightly. Not only do they wake up, but they also are activated into growth. Plants grow

when the sun comes up. People grow when the light of God shines brightly. So, pray for the lights to come on.

As the light shines brightly the atmosphere is networked and the air is made new. The atmosphere is the reason life on earth is able to flourish. There is no life on the moon because there is no atmosphere. You may think that it's nothing. However, if God took it away you would realize how much you need it. I once heard a scientist say "to a fish, water is 'nothing.'" So, when your prayer changes the atmosphere it will change someone's life. You can't change their mind, emotions, or anything else inside of them. However, you can change the environment around them. In photosynthesis light is transformed into energy by the networking of plants. What if someone's atmosphere is changed by the networking of heaven and earth through you? What if someone becomes new because of you? Prayer changes the atmosphere by taking the light of heaven and turning it into energy on the earth.

When the light is shining bright and the atmosphere is being set nutrients are able to flourish. They facilitate the development and dominance of the earth. Plants are constantly working to take over. If you let a building just sit by itself, it will be overtaken by plant life. This same idea applies in your prayer life. Your prayers are like nutrients on the land. God's will develops as you pray. People are able to grow like crazy in their spiritual life as you pray. This leads to the land being dominated by the will of God. This is not instantaneous but, it works. If you take a time-lapse camera and record plants growing you will see how they adapt and dominate environments. It's a slow process but the results are clear. So, keep praying and realize that you are providing nutrients on the earth for God's will to flourish.

It takes one more very important thing for God's will to flourish on the earth! It takes drops of water. Every word out of your mouth in prayer on the earth is like a drop of water. It may not seem like much, but as you keep on speaking and others join you the rain begins to fall hard on the land. The dry ground becomes flourishing soil. Drop after drop of liquid sunshine hit's the earth and the life of God flourishes on the land. So, let's pray and never stop!