



Closing the Gap:

*Where am I?
Where do I want to be?*

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective, Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years."

James 5:16-17

"Ahab did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him."

1 Kings 16:30

"There was never a man like Ahab who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord urged on by Jezebel his wife."

1 Kings 21:25

“How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.’ But the people said nothing.”

1 Kings 18:21

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. (actually the people had) So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.” Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day’s journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

1 Kings 19:1-6

The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

**1. Pay attention to the physical
"you."**

In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat — for he grants sleep to those he loves.

Psalm 127:2

**A man's own folly ruins his life, yet
his heart rages against the LORD.**

Proverbs 19:3

2. Honest emotions are important...but good thinking is essential.

**“What are you doing here, Elijah?”
He replied, “I have been very zealous for the
LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have
rejected your covenant, broken down your
altars, and put your prophets to death with
the sword. I am the only one left, and now
they are trying to kill me too.”**

1 Kings 19:13-14

The LORD said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu king over Israel, and anoint Elisha to succeed you as prophet. Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel — all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him.”

1 Kings 19:15-18

1. Be honest with what you feel, but prepare to have your thinking corrected.

2. When your thinking is corrected...be prepared for your feelings to change as well.

3. If you only want God to tell you what you want to hear...then it is unlikely you will hear from God.

**3. We must make "space" in our lives
if we want to hear from God.**

The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

1 Kings 19:11-13

We all have time for what we most value...how valuable is to you to hear from God speaking to you about your life?

“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

Psa. 46:10

What we call "guilt"

- 1. The reality of having sinned**
- 2. The emotional response to a false sense of having done wrong**
- 3. The feeling of being challenged and not wanting to respond actively to the challenge.**

4. "Righteousness" opens up powerful, effective praying.

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective, Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years."

James 5:16,17

**We do not earn righteousness
through obedience but we do live in
it through obedience.**

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

James 1:5-6

**The double-minded man is undecided
as to whether God is to be trusted or
not.**

“How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him. But the people said nothing.”

1 Kings 18:21

The facts of faith, not your own feelings of faith, must set the course of your life...and your praying.