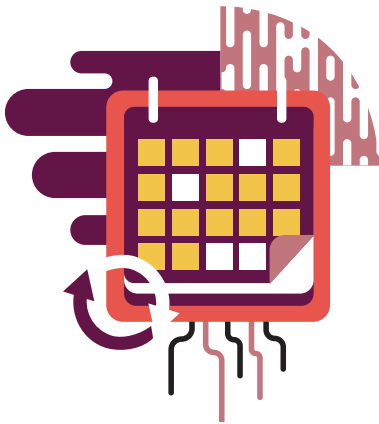


# Daily Devotions



Day 1

## 1 Kings 18:1-19

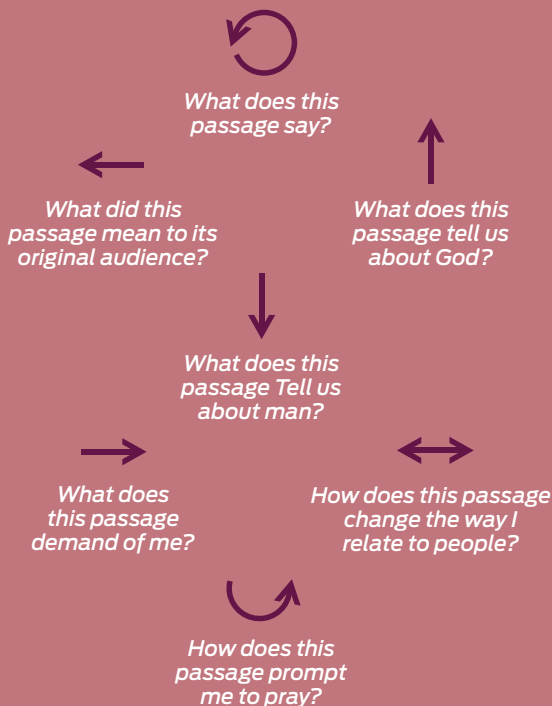
Not everyone will be called to formal ministry like Elijah, but many will be called to serve like Obadiah. Elijah's ministry was more public and confrontational; Obadiah worked quietly in behind-the-scenes fashion and yet was faithful in the sphere where God placed him.

Obadiah illustrates how one should use their influence and resources. Obadiah had access to provisions and made them available to these persecuted prophets. Those who work in professions that allow them to receive good salaries and benefits should consider how to use such blessings to advance the kingdom. One might object claiming that Obadiah was being deceitful, but nothing in the text says that he lied or did anything unethical. He knew about the suffering believers, and he used what he had to provide for them.

Second, Obadiah teaches us to be courageous. He ultimately followed Elijah's instructions at great risk to his own life. The lesson here is that if you are ever in a position where it's either obedience to God or obedience to man, choose God—even if it might cost you your job or your life (Acts 5:29).

**How does Obadiah's life set an example for those who want to be faithful in their everyday work?**

### The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



## Day 2

# 1 Kings 18:20-29

The battle at Mount Carmel was really about whether Baal or Yahweh answered prayer. The false prophets called upon Baal from “morning until noon” (v. 26), but there was no answer. Elijah’s prayer was short, and God responded!

A long prayer doesn’t mean a better prayer, especially if you are praying to the wrong god. You can pray five times a day facing any direction you want while dressing with religious garb and burning incense, candles, and more, but if you aren’t praying to the God of Elijah, you are engaging in spiritual futility.

Next, the false prophets danced around the altar, but it too accomplished nothing spiritually. Elijah responded to their lengthy prayers and ritual dances with some holy sarcasm (v. 27). The false prophets then cut themselves and raved, but their frenzy produced no fire either.

Though the story is spectacular and miraculous, the application is simple. The God of the Bible hears and answers prayer. And because of our relationship with Him by grace through faith in Christ, He invites us to call upon Him and promises to hear us.

**How does this story encourage you to pray more faithfully and fervently?**

## Day 3

# 1 Kings 18:30-46

We learn three important lessons on prayer from Elijah’s petition at Mount Carmel. First, have a relationship with the living God. Elijah prays to the God of the covenant, the God of Abraham. We can call upon God, and even call him “Father” if we know him by grace through faith in Christ (Mark 14:36).

Secondly, seek the glory of God. Elijah’s prayer is God-centered. He wants people to recognize the glory of God. Jesus taught us to long for God’s name to be glorified and God’s kingdom to cover the earth.

Third, pray for idolaters to turn to the living God. Elijah prayed that God would turn the people’s hearts back to the living God. He prayed that they would know and respond to the truth (v. 36). Let us pray for God to turn idol worshipers into Christ worshipers (1 Thess. 1:9-10).

Elijah’s brief, God-centered prayer stands in great contrast to the empty prayers of “Baal’s boys.” Let us follow Elijah’s example.

**How are you praying for God’s glory to be made known in your home, your church, your city, and around the world?**

## Day 4

# 1 Kings 19:1-8

Have you ever said, “I’ve had enough, Lord”? If so, then you can identify with Elijah. If you haven’t, more than likely you will have times in your life where you are drained physically and emotionally. You may have times when you are also exhausted spiritually as you keep giving. You may also lose sight of the glory of God’s greatness as your circumstances overwhelm you. The good news in this story is that God is gracious to His weary saints. He gave Elijah food and rest; He spoke to Elijah from the mountain; and He gave Elijah a new vision for the future.

Make sure you take care of yourself physically. Make sure you are hearing and studying God’s Word. And ask God to give you a compelling vision for how you should fulfill the Great Commission. Don’t throw in the towel, but instead strive to receive God’s renewing grace and press on.

**Have you ever heard a sermon on “sleep”? Why is it important for Christians to maintain good eating habits, along with healthy rest, work, and recreation rhythms?**

## Day 5

# 1 Kings 19:9-18

As Elijah stood before the Lord, the Lord “passed by,” and a great wind tore through the mountains (1 Kings 19:11). Then there was an earthquake, then a fire. But the Lord was not in these powerful displays. Instead, after a fire, Elijah heard a “soft whisper” (v. 12).

Previously, God showed up with fire, consuming the drenched altar. People marveled. But here, the emphasis is on God’s quiet ways. God often appears not in the spectacular but in the gentle whisper.

This phrase, “a soft whisper” (v. 12), only appears two others times. It appears in Job 4:16 and Psalm 107:29, as an almost silent sound. It’s used in both passages in the context of rest and refreshment in the midst of pain, distress, and fear.

Let’s remember that God often works in quiet ways. Sometimes the fire seems to fall in corporate gatherings, but God is working quietly through His written Word and by His Spirit in the hearts of His people. Seek the God of grace in the quiet place. Get alone with Him and listen to His Word.

**What is your plan for pursuing quiet communion with God on a daily basis?**