

Faith- belief and trust in and loyalty to God

Famine- 1: an extreme scarcity of food

2: starvation

3: a ravenous appetite

4: a great shortage

I Kings 17:1-7 NKJV- (the effects of continual sin)

[1] And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word." [2] Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, [3] "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. [4] And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." [5] So he went and did according to the word of the Lord, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. [6] The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. [7] And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

Here we are with part 2! We introduced why famines come and who warns the people. Now lets take a look at how famines happen and how God still provides for His people. Famine occurs when our greatest resource is cut off or dries up. The worlds number one resource is water! Without water we literally have nothing. Water is literally connected to everything in existence.

Fact 1- 71% of the earth is covered in water! So that mean that land takes up the other 29%!!!! Let me show you in the word how long water has been in existence.

Genesis 1:1-2 NKJV

[1] In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. [2] The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

So technically water was here before we were. God took water and created Earth and humanity from it. Selah....God is the perfect architect! God took something that was formless and inconsistent with shape, and made shapes and figures with it being the main source....and on top of that made us dependant on it.

Liquid only takes form when you put it in something....

Fact 2- 60% of the human body is water so now we know why we need to drink more water and eat more fruit that provides water and hydration because we have to replace what we lose daily. So to those of you who don't like water, you don't like living...when we go through dehydration, it is not because we aren't drinking liquids, it is because the water balance is off in our bodies, thats why the doctor asks "What is your water intake?" so there is a importance placed on water period.

So when God is ready is to unleash famine, He goes right to the water supply and dries it up. He turns off the rain, and droughts begin to occur.

As we said last week, when resources dry up, now we have to look to something or someone to help, our pride has to die.

Now the text is focused on the physical means, but lets take a turn and talk about the spiritual means of this. Elijah being who he was, knew that although the Lord had him to declare the drought as a punishment for disobedience and continually doing evil against the Lord. It wasn't about the physical heart of the King and people, it was about the seat being corrupted by sin and idolatry and a spiritual cleansing had to take place to restore the order, and prompt the repentance that was needed. Sometimes Lord will cause the physical things to dry up to get you to see that He is doing it to get your attention! We have been running to wells for refreshing, and revival only to find that the well is a cistern, dried up Selah!

Now lets talk about what the Holy Spirit represents, He is referred to as the living water!

John 7:37-39 NKJV

[37] On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. [38] He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." [39] But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Just as the earth and humanity need water to live physically, we as disciples...Jesus had to take care of the need to be constantly refreshed, revived, and renewed by the constant flow of goodness and mercy that only He can provide.

Sometimes as believers we get hard headed and rebellious towards Gods care and instructions for us and God has to allow Holy Spirit to withdraw himself a little bit so that we experience a spiritual drought, because we

haven't listened. There are times in the word where God withdrew His voice to draw people back true repentance.

Amos 8:11-12 NKJV

[11] "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the Lord. [12] They shall wander from sea to sea, And from north to east; They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, But shall not find it.

The beginning of the scripture begins with these words from God to Amos in verse 3 ***"The end has come upon my people Israel; I will not pass by them anymore"***

Then it goes on to talk about the calamity coming. But then He says Im not talking anymore. Do you know how much you have to hurt God for Him to stop talking? This scripture shows us that God will stop talking! It was 400 years between Malachi and Matthew that there was silence from God.

Our free will determines how much we hear from God, because His character...

(lets insert a couple of scriptures here that reminds us of God's character)

Matthew 11:29 NKJV

[29] Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Revelation 3:20 NKJV

[20] Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Psalms 86:15 NKJV

**[15] But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious,
Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.**

is not forceful, He respects your actions and decisions. **We have to want Him to Lead, guide, and order our steps...although it may not be agreeable to us at times!!!!!!**

Selah....

When the Spirit of God stops speaking we are in a very bad place, but what is worse is when we don't even know it and assume it Him and its not!!!! We can be in a place where we believe we are hearing the Voice of God and it is a seducing and deceiving spirit.

I Timothy 4:1-3 NKJV

[1] Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, [2] speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, [3] forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

II Corinthians 11:12-15 NKJV

[12] But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as

we are in the things of which they boast. [13] For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. [14] And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. [15] Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Some of us are experiencing a drought of the Spirit of God! Your famine is not of food but of HIM! And we have to repent from our heart! We have allowed an angel of light and a minister of righteousness to take the lead position. Surrender the seat back to Holy Spirit!

Closing

We must come to a realization that famine comes in multiple ways and if we are not discerning the times and doing self checks and being accountable to God and those we trust in the spirit to be honest with us, our hearts will stay soft to Him.