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# FOURTEEN DAYS OF BREAK- THROUGH

*Prayer That Works* | Devotions from the life of Elijah

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iSEECHURCH

# DAY ONE

## Elijah on Prayer - 1 Kings 18:41-46

It is an awesome truth that we can pray with the confidence that God hears us. The bible promises that if we pray, God hears us. We all have areas in our lives where we need the power of God to come through for us. These next 14 days, let's go into the scriptures, and discover some wisdom from Elijah, a man whose prayer shook a nation and healed their land.

Today, we'll read a short story, and over the next few days, we'll explore it verse by verse. There is revelation here for breakthrough in our lives and in our church together! Elijah has just performed one of the greatest miracles of the Old Testament, fire from heaven, so everyone knows he is a prophet who speaks for God. Situation is, there is a drought in the land, and Elijah has come with a Word from heaven. With only his knees as a place to pray, Elijah releases the rain that saves a nation.

**READ:** 1 Kings 18:41-46 | Elijah Prays for Rain

Before we pray, let's clarify what we mean by breakthrough. They can be as huge as breaking a drought or bringing down city walls, or as beautiful as a whole week of good sleep. Breakthrough can include overcoming fear, having the capacity to forgive getting a new vision for your business. Breakthrough always brings a greater trust in God. Most of us will not deliver a nation, but some of us might.

**PRAY:** Father, thank you for inviting me into the miraculous. As we begin this 14 days of faith-filled prayer, open the eyes of my heart so I can understand. Holy Spirit, renew my mind and use my prayers to see your Kingdom come. By grace Lord, I want to see your breakthrough power unlocked in my life, overflow into my family and our church for your glory, in Jesus name, Amen.

Begin each days prayer time by praying in the Spirit for a few minutes.

Pray today for your iSEE CHURCH location. Ask for growth and favour for every ministry expression (Kids, Young Adults, Connect Groups and Worship Team, Pastoral Care and Outreach as well as the area in which you serve).

# DAY TWO

## Declaration for Deliverance

*1 Kings 18:41 ... Elijah said to Ahab, "Go get something to eat and drink, for I hear a mighty rainstorm coming!"*

Here, Elijah declares (speaks out) what he believes is going to happen, before anything at all is happening.

It is the custom at our breakfast table, to share whatever plans we might have for the day ahead. It's usually pretty boring stuff like, 'I'll be going to the hydrobath with the dogs today'. By taking a leaf out of Elijah's book, we can use this same strategy and be more intentional with our words for the purpose of seeing breakthroughs. Declaring our miracle is a great way to exercise our faith for the things we want to see happen. The life of Jesus on earth shows that these 'announcements' have real power in time and space. In the Gospels, you'll find he regularly 'declared' his intentions to his disciples before something wonderful happened.

God has previously told Elijah to announce the coming rain. Knowing that God's words are 100% trustworthy, he speaks to the King with a declaration of deliverance. 1 Kings 18:41 ... Elijah said to King Ahab ...I hear a mighty rainstorm coming!"

We know from later in the story that Elijah definitely could not hear any rain with his natural ears. What courage Elijah showed by calling things that aren't, as though they are! (Rom 4:17) Declarations of faith like this are the seeds of breakthrough!

**PRAY & DECLARE:** All Things Are Possible.

Lord, I know that you have a great future for me and new opportunities are opening up for me.

Spend some time praying in the Spirit and think of one thing you can thank God for that hasn't happened yet.

**As a church we declare;** Lord, You are able to lead us to the right property and buildings to house revival in every city you call us to, Amen!

# DAY THREE

## Prophesying on Purpose

*Acts 2:17 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy ...*

Anything that has ever happened in the Kingdom of God, is because someone first prophesied it. John's Gospel says that 'nothing was made apart from the Word of God'. Acts 2:17 itself, is a fulfillment of prophecy from a guy named Joel. He spoke these famous words about 500 years before they became a reality on the day of Pentecost. The main characters of the Old Testament are sometimes called prophets because God used them to release His plan on the earth through their prophetic words. One of the great privileges we have as New Testament, Spirit filled believers, is that we have 'all' been invited into this creative process. As sons and daughters of this promise, we have been invited to prophesy on purpose to see his Kingdom come through declarations of faith.

I am grateful my Mum was a Godly woman who knew how to take a promise and speak it out. As I would leave for school, she would clap her hands and shout after us; "remember, the joy of the Lord is your strength." By doing this she was prophesying on purpose to cover her kids with grace.

Jesus prophesied that His Church would push back the gates of hell. Therefore, we can prophesy on purpose in alignment with this great promise and see God's will be done. When we announce breakthrough and revival, we co-labour with the Holy Spirit and make a way for the future to conform to the Word of God.

On the day of Pentecost, in 1606, a christian explorer, Pedro de Queiros, prayed out loud that these islands of the Pacific would be called; "The Great South Lands of the Holy Spirit". This declaration has become part of our prophetic history and it concludes with these words; "may the Gospel be preached openly and zealously in these said lands for all time". Let's echo these words as we pray for our nation today.

**PRAY:** That our leaders would have wisdom and strength in their roles.

We pray for the success of the Religious Freedom Bill (legislation that protects the right of the church to remain faithful to her mission).

We declare that the good news of Jesus will always be preached openly and zealously in our nation, Amen.

# DAY FOUR

## Backstage, Climb high and Bow Low

*1 Kings 18:42 So Ahab went to eat and drink. But Elijah climbed to the top of Mount Carmel and bowed low to the ground.*

Elijah must have sounded really confident because the King obeyed him and went out for dinner. Meanwhile, the great prophet made his way to the frontline of the war. He climbed up the mountain to contend for the miracle.

Today, you are welcomed to the front line to climb up high (God's presence) and bow low, (pray earnestly) for breakthrough. This is the dynamic of a believer's prayer. The Cross made us children of God and bought for us an inheritance. Our breakthrough has already been approved by heaven, so as we climb up high and bow low, we become a portal for miracles to touchdown on humanity, like rain on a drought affected land.

One of the reasons we must immerse ourselves in God's Word is to become familiar with His promises, which then become the substance of our prayers. The great apostle Paul writes it like this in a letter to Corinth;

*1 Corinthians 1:20 For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.*

**PRAY:** recall a promise God has made to you or consider these words from Ephesians, 'All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.'

Say these words out loud; "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim ..."  
God will use your prayers today to release blessings that have already been loosed in heaven. Amen.

# DAY FIVE

## Embrace the discomfort of Faith in prayer

Preachers have said that Elijah took on the birthing position in prayer. Sounds uncomfortable right? Yet, Elijah knew that sometimes it takes real effort to breakthrough in prayer. In his mind, God had said 'it's going to rain', so the drought was already over in heaven, so he embraced discomfort when others were eating and drinking. Elijah's pain laden prayers, gave birth to the storms that literally 'broke through' the heavens and delivered a nation.

The Gospels record numerous times when Jesus went up a mountain to pray, at night, alone. It is also said of Jesus that he perfectly fulfilled his mission on earth. My lazy heart asks, why couldn't he pray during the day or over there by the lake? Why did he have to climb? I cannot answer those questions but I understand, from His example that a life of miracles will sometimes create discomfort for the one who 'labours'. Your miracle will be worth it. Jesus promises abundant life but bringing something to life can be costly. Ask a parent and they'll tell you, it has cost a fortune and many nights of discomfort, but would not trade the phenomenal joy of abundant life in their home.

Holy Spirit calls out to every listening ear to come up high and take a position. Could you maybe get up a bit earlier or stay up later, to connect with the Most High and give birth to dreams? Could you begin with what feels like inadequate prayers as Holy Spirit leads you deeper? As a church, these 14 days are exactly like that. A disruption to our routines, sometimes alone with God, pushing through our tiredness and our doubts to pray. When we do, we become part of the miracle that God is unlocking over our community of faith. Growth is inevitable as we unite and pray, believing for rain.

**PRAY** today for your family and for the families in your church. Every family is a battle front for the enemy. Pray blessing for each family that calls iSEE home, that God would be honoured. Pray for Dads and Mums, wisdom and grace. Pray for kids and for blended families. Pray for people who don't have other believers in their families, that they would experience a God family at church.

Pray for the location you attend and for its leaders. As we pray for our leaders in this way, and for one another, the culture of heaven flows between us.

# DAY SIX

## Gotta see with your eyes shut!

*1 Kings 18:43 Then he said to his servant, "Go and look out toward the sea." The servant went and looked, then returned to Elijah and said, "I didn't see anything."*

Firstly, I want to remind you today how much your Father in heaven loves you. As we develop our life of prayer, we mustn't get into a 'works' mentality. Jesus said it clearly, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent." (John 6) So, let's keep our eyes on Jesus as we 'train ourselves to be believing warriors in His cause'. In Jesus name, we remove any foothold of the enemy that's telling you, 'you are not enough' and agree with God who teaches us that we are more than conquerors in Jesus.

Elijah was busy praying for breakthrough, so he sent his servant to check the weather. The act of moving from the posture of prayer to check the status of the miracle could undermine Elijah's faith. Observing Elijah here is a priceless prayer hack for warriors. While you are waiting for a breakthrough, keep your head down, and your eyes shut. Let others check the balance of the bank account or manage the symptoms that persist while you keep believing. I am not suggesting you pretend something isn't what it currently is, but I know that staying in faith is needed on the road to breakthrough. What is currently visible, isn't the absolute 'truth' for the one who is believing for more. Sometimes you have to act like you are already in your future. Isaiah wrote; "Let the weak say, I am strong". Prophesying on purpose right there!

Your breakthrough is in process, like a caterpillar experiencing metamorphosis. Now is not the time to crack open the cocoon and look around. Let's keep believing until the evidence becomes aligned with the promise.

**PRAY:** Today for Revival. The status quo is not a hindrance to Revival, unless we act like that's all there is. Revival is rumbling in the heavens, hovering over nations like storm clouds. The conditions are forming and outpourings of the Spirit are on their way.

**PRAY:** Lord help us to see with our eyes shut, as we keep praying for nations. We thank you for every revival you have planned for the planet and believe that miracles, signs and wonders will breakthrough and rain down.

# DAY SEVEN

## Perseverance: the essential ingredient

*1 Kings 18:43-44 Seven times Elijah told him to go and look. Finally the seventh time, his servant told him ...*

Perseverance, not one of my favourite words. It speaks of waiting, of pushing on when I want to stop, and of serious delayed gratification. In Elijah's story, he sent his servant seven times while he kept on praying, waiting and believing for something to shift. Prophetically, the number 7 is considered God's number. It could be interpreted as, 'the perfect amount'. Think; 7 days of creation and how Jesus asks us to forgive, 7 x 70. In Israel's history, Joshua led God's people into a whole new season by walking together for 7 days around the walls of Jericho. In a mighty crescendo of faith, they marched 7 times on the 7th day and brought the breakthrough for their nation. Today is day seven.

After the seventh time verse 44 says, "finally". When you hear someone say 'finally', you know there has been a waiting period and this is certainly true in this story. No one can know how far the servant had to run to see what was happening nor how the relationship between he and Elijah was faring. We do know that because Elijah did not leave his post and the servant faithfully co-laboured with him, there came a 'finally'.

When was the last time you felt the relief of a 'finally' in your life. 'Finally', you finished school. 'Finally', the house is painted, 'finally' your annoying neighbours moved away. 'Finally's' are worth it when they finally happen. Believing for our 'finally' can be a long process, but take heart God will do what he said he will do. Activate your holy imagination for a minute and thank God for what it will be like at your 'finally.'

**PRAY** for our eight congregations. Hong Kong, Pine Rivers, Launceston, Adelaide, Brisbane West, Mumbai, Townsville and Brisbane City. Mention each one before God and allow the Holy Spirit's thoughts to guide your prayer for these communities of faith. They are oasis' of grace in their respective cities.

**PRAY** for any missionary that you have heard of and every ministry expression on the front line. Pray that their 'finally' will flow to them and they will be encouraged as they touch lives with God's love.



# DAY EIGHT

## See the seed

*1 Kings 18:44 his servant told him, "I saw a little cloud about the size of a man's hand rising from the sea."*

It takes real confidence in the promise to celebrate the coming storm when the evidence is still just a small cloud. Something about Elijah's tenacious belief in the coming rain seems to have rubbed off on his servant for him to mention the cloud. Consider the story in the Gospels where Jesus feeds the multitude. On receiving the single serve meal, the Bible records that he prepared the crowd to receive lunch by sitting them down in groups. He then looked up to heaven, gave thanks and distributed it. That 'seed' became an abundant banquet which satisfied thousands of people.

I have absolutely no gift for gardening but I do know that every beautiful garden has an attentive gardener. The principle of the seed is foundational to understand how the kingdom operates. In our story, the servant reports the sighting of the cloud to Elijah, who immediately recognises it as the beginning of the rain. What is your promise, and when you look around your life, is there a seed that you could begin to water. Sadly, it is possible that God answers many prayers with 'seeds' that wilt before they become the breakthrough. Seeds require stewarding through faith and gratitude for them to flourish into the promise. Lord gives us the capacity to see the seeds of revival all around us and to water them with praise and acts of faith, in Jesus name.

**PRAY:** Look around your life and ministry, and speak growth and favour on every seed. Pray over your tithes and offerings knowing that it is seed being sown into Kingdom. Pray over your children and the children of iSEE, declare goodness and mercy to follow them every day of their lives.

# DAY NINE

## There's a Victory in the Shout

*1 Kings 18:44 Then Elijah shouted, "Hurry to Ahab and tell him, 'Climb into your chariot and go back home."*

**Shout** (noun) a loud cry, typically as an expression of a strong emotion, or calling attention. Shouting is more than speaking loudly, it is an energetic response to something felt to be important. There is a certain abandonment of dignity when someone shouts and it can be a powerful tool for engaging in breakthrough prayer. Elijah's enthusiasm here demonstrates an impassioned declaration which is shouted as if victory is imminent. The great evangelist Rienhardt Bonnke famously said, "dignity before desire is a victory for hell."

1 Kings 18:44: The day has been long, the King has had his dinner in preparation for his journey home. The sky had been clear until Elijah's servant reported one smallish cloud in the distance. Before the servant even finishes talking, the Bible records that Elijah shouted at him. The servant may have thought that his boss was overreacting to the information, but Elijah was already experiencing the joy of victory and knew the miracle was now inevitable. Sometimes in prayer, there will be a supernatural sense that the breakthrough has been activated and it makes you want to shout!

The Psalms are full of invitations to shout to God. Isaiah the prophet famously calls people to shout, cry aloud and to 'not hold back'. Jesus, the King of glory shouted when He announced the coming of the Spirit. Shouts are deliberate acts of faith when we are believing God for more. If you have never activated your 'shout', let me encourage you to let it out. Remember the ancient walls of Jericho came down when the people of God united and shouted together.

**PRaise** God with a shout today. Heaven is a joyful place. Maybe you'll have to go outside or turn your music up loud, but it is a valuable weapon for the warrior.

**PRAY** that we as a church would sacrifice dignity for desire when it comes to taking possession of our inheritance.

**PRAY:** Salvations in services, people being filled with the Spirit and for labourers to be sharing the Gospel.

# DAY TEN

## More than enough

*1 Kings 18:44 "If you don't hurry, the rain will stop you!"*

Elijah announced that the impending storm would bring such a deluge that if the King did not immediately get on his way, the rain would prevent him. In the Bible, God's attributes are expressed through his various names. One of those names is El Shaddai, which literally means; the God who is More than Enough. Jesus' arrival on earth demonstrated this. Think about the angels who announced his birth to the shepherds. Possibly one angel could have done the job on a dark night in the hills, but God is 'more than enough' so he filled the sky with jubilant spirit beings. In the Gospels, it is recorded that there were 12 baskets of food left over at the feeding of the multitude and the water that became wine was judged to be of the finest quality. Abundance is a promise for God's children who participate in heaven's economy. Paul writes; "and God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Cor 8)

So Elijah has told the King the drought is over and at the first hint of precipitation, he shouts that this will not be a shower but a downpour. As believers, we can confidently announce our promises and expect extravagant answers to prayer. Lord enlarge our capacity to receive abundance as we walk by faith toward breakthrough.

**PRAY:** Abundant provision for every good work at iSEE CHURCH.

**PRAY** every believer who is in business to flourish and experience God the Father as More than Enough.

# DAY ELEVEN

## When is soon?

*1 Kings 18:45 And soon the sky was black with clouds. A heavy wind brought a terrific rainstorm ...*

The time between the declaration of rain, to the downpour may have been hours or it may have been weeks. Whatever the time frame was, we know for sure that Elijah's words came to pass. 'Soon' is not a time frame that can be measured from these scriptures. According to the book of Hebrews, Abraham waited many years for his promised son, while others even, died never having received the promise. Ouch. As shocking as that sounds, the real goal is not the rain, the child or whatever the object of your breakthrough is, but to follow Jesus and walk by faith. While the fulfillment may take longer than we had hoped, the Bible promises a phenomenal reward for the one who continues to live by faith.

Receiving the promise is not subject to our timetable but be assured it is inevitable as we continue to trust Him. Jesus told the disciples that whatever you have given up to follow him will come back to you abundantly, in this life and in the life to come. That, my friend, is good news. Declare it, shout it, expect it and wait for it.

Psalm 27:13 "I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."

**PRAY:** Start today by declaring this scripture over your promises, your life and your family.

**PRAY** for courage to wait, a holy enthusiasm to live by faith.

# DAY TWELVE

## Not by Might - but by the Spirit

*1 Kings 18:46 Then the Lord gave special strength to Elijah.*

Elijah had had a big day. Prior to the rain, he had already been working bravely and triumphantly for God. In the backstory, he had performed miracles, pulled down idols, restored God's good name to Israel and now he has climbed a mountain and broken the drought. He has been faithful to do what God sent him to do. And afterwards, I imagine he was tired. How good is God to give him special strength to complete the task at hand.

The letter to the Ephesians teaches us that God has also called each of us to do certain good works. However, in working for God and living the life of faith, we can get tired if we don't access the special strength He has given for us. God has provided for you to be energised on your journey. In the Old Testament the Spirit came 'on' people to perform certain tasks God had given them. This is what happened here for Elijah, defying the weariness he must have felt, he received special strength when the spirit came upon him.

The good news is that on the day of Pentecost, Holy Spirit came from heaven to permanently live 'in' believers. The power of our precious Holy Spirit bubbling up from within, provides that special energy as a flow to fulfill our destiny.

**PRAY** for fresh fire from heaven to fill you up and overflow with Holy Spirit energy.

**PRAY** for a revival that re-energises the whole church to do the work of the ministry as it has been appointed for each one to do.

# DAY THIRTEEN

## Run unhindered

*He tucked his cloak into his belt and ran ahead of Ahab's chariot all the way to the entrance of Jezreel. 1 Kings 18:46*

Elijah wore an animal skin garment and a leather belt. If you have ever held an animal skin you'll know they are surprisingly heavy. Unchecked it could become a genuine threat to his arriving unscathed. The image of this powerful man running with his cloak hitched in his belt offers us a metaphor for today's thought; 'Run Unhindered'.

The opening verse of Hebrews 12 is reminiscent of the same idea.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.

Your life of prayer began and is sustained by Jesus. Let's take a look around our lives. Is there something that is seriously slowing you down? Is there a weight that distracts you from seeing Jesus right there with you, cheering you on? Today, let's spend a few moments, taking stock, fixing our eyes on our wonderful Savior, and hitch up our 'cloaks' so we can run unhindered.

**PRAY** in the Spirit.

**PRAY** specifically for your breakthrough. Is it a healing of your body or a relationship? Is it to be debt free? Is it a reimagining of your calling and your future.

**PRAY** for wisdom to hitch our cloaks and cast off weights so you can know Jesus better each day.

# DAY FOURTEEN

## No one gets left behind

*James 5:16 The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. 17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.*

Thank you for coming along on these 14 Days of Breakthrough. James 5:16 shows that each and every person who follows Jesus is well positioned to ask and receive God.

In this scripture, James is writing to the New Testament church and is reflecting back on the same story we have been meditating on. He exhorts the reader to take courage from Elijah's example by knowing that he was just a regular guy. Apparently there was nothing special about him and yet his prayers and his faith unlocked supernatural miracles and deliverance for a nation.

While we share our identity as human beings with Elijah, we have actually received something that he did not. Verse 16 says; "the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective". Yes, that promise is for you. You are the righteous person of whom James speaks because Jesus gifted you with His own righteousness through amazing grace. You are therefore 100% qualified to pray with confidence. Do not let the enemy tell you differently and rob you of your breakthrough but rather shout the words of Jesus and say, all things are possible to those who believe.

**PRAY** for your brothers and sisters to receive their breakthrough as they believe.

**PRAY** that a new season of powerful and effective prayer will unlock opportunities for you to advance the kingdom through your life.

