6-4-2020 Initial Draft

Note: This is a computer generated transcript using Nuance Dragon V15 and then editing from the audio. It is now partially edited as time allows.

6-3-2020 Wednesday Evening Message by Bro. Lawrence Richardson

Well good afternoon to each of you. We appreciate you being here tonight with our Facebook broadcast and trying to get the gospel out and tell people about the **Lord Jesus Christ.** I appreciate those that listen each time that we do these Facebook services and many of you make comments and then I get private messages. I thank you for that and appreciate people listening and praying for us here at **Grace Baptist Church** and that **God** would continue to bless and help us in these days in which we live.

We are certainly living in troublesome times, terrible times. But we have a **Lord** in heaven that knows all about that. He takes care of our needs and he helps us in every situation of life.

I am coming to you today in a little bit different time. I'm not home here this this Wednesday. We had to go to my daughters and she had a procedure today and so we're taking care to broadcast ahead of time. And so we thank you **Lord** for the opportunity to do this and thank **God** that everything works out well and always works out for the good of those that love the **Lord. P**ray for my daughter. She has kidney failure. She's on dialysis and had to have a procedure today. I wanted to check to make sure everything was working well and that we would be praying for her that she might get a kidney transplant very soon and get off the dialysis and get back to a normal life that she had before.

There was no known reason for the kidney failure. The doctors cannot tell her anything as to why. But her kidneys are not functioning hardly at all, both of them. And so she's on dialysis twice a week and we are just praying that the **Lord** would supply that kidney very soon and we know that He will do it in accordance to **His Will** and in his time. But would you pray with us about that and we certainly would appreciate your prayers and thank you.

Here on this Wednesday we always try to try to have prayer time and ask the Lord to bless and help and remembering those that are sick and those that have needs in their life. S lets bow for prayer and then will have a message tonight. I pray that it will be an encouragement to you and help to you in your personal life.

Our Fathe, we bow to You and we thank You tonight for your blessings upon us. We thank you for the good things you do for us. We thank you for everything that you do is good and the Lord you make no mistakes and we know that we realize that and we learn to trust you and we follow your direction and your will and our personal life. Do pray for those that are sick. We pray for the needs that people have, physically, spiritually, socially, even financially; we ask **God** be with them. Pray for our country. Dear Lord we need a move of the Lord we need a moving of God. We need a great awakening in the lives of people that know you not. And we need revival in the people of God. Revival us again O Lord, will be our crying and be our call. So **Lord** do bless tonight as we open the **Word** of **God** and take the Scripture. I pray been encouragement and help to everyone that that listens to this service. Thank you for your blessings; we ask in **Jesus** name, Amen.

Last Wednesday night we dealt with the subject of prayer and looked at four or five different types of prayer that we have for our self. We use the passage in Scripture in the Book of James chapter 5. I will go back to that passage tonight and then we will turn back into the Old Testament at 1st. Samuel and go to a look here again in verse number 16, the latter part of it and verse 17 and 18 and the same verses we used the last Wednesday night. But we will look at them a little differently tonight as we open the Scripture.

So James chapter 5 and verse number 16. The last part of that verse says

**James 5:16 (KJV)**
16  The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain and it rained not on the earth by space of three years and six months and he prayed again, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

Here is this subject once again of prayer and that the illustration or the example that **God** gives to us is the man by the name of Elijah. We find many things in the Old Testament about Elijah and a great man of God had the power of God upon him and followed the direction of the Lord in his life and God blessed them abundantly and used him to show it to prove that the **God** of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was the true and living **God**, and he showed proof of that even to the heathen of his day and his time. I believe we can do the same thing. I believe we can show forth how God is our leader how **God** takes care of us’ how **God** provides for us; how **God** even fights our battles. Thank you Lord He can do that and does that for us.

So we'll turn back now to the book of first Kings chapter number 17 in chapter number 18 and have the account of this man Elijah that had some tremendous happenings in his life. Wasn’t all of them easy, but they were all good for him and good to him from the power and presence and the will of **God** in his life.

I want us to notice the subject that we read of the verses that we read there in James chapter 5 says, “Elijah prayed and it rained not. Heprayed again and it rained. And so here we find a man that had the power of prayer in his life that God answered and God did for him and God blessed him with the answer of prayer in his life. Elijah prayed and it rained not. That's found in chapter 17 verse number one. Later on it says, “Elijah prayed in the fire fell. You know the story how that Elijah was in confrontation with the prophets of bail and will read that prayer in a moment. When he prayed the fire of God fell and consumed the offering that was placed there and then in chapter 18 verse number 42 just soon after that fire fell, Elijah prayed and then it rained.

And so tonight I want to look at this man, Elijah, and his power that he had through prayer and the power that God gave him and the answer that God gave him through his prayer life. He prayed for a revolution. Je said,

Dear Lord, we need this from **God**. He wasn't praying for revival. He was praying for God to deliver, for God to have a revolution in his homeland and his people that they would no longer follow after Bail no longer follow after the wickedness of their day. Ahab I was a was one of the kings of Israel and the Bible says he is one of most wicked of all the kings that ever served as King of Israel, and he did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than any other. And here's the man that came in confrontation with Elijah.

The Bible tells us in first Kings chapter 18 and verse number 17 says “ …it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him art thou he that troubled Israel. So here is the king, this wicked king. He sees Elijah and the first thing he says are you the one that's troubling Israel? You see, Israel was in dire straits. They were in the midst of the famine and had no food had no water because Elijah prayed and it rained not. So they were under the result of the judgment of **God** upon them, and when this political leader Ahab the King of Israel saw Elijah, he said, “…are you the one that's troubling Israel?” You will notice the answer that Elijah gives back to him. He says in verse number 18 Elijah answers “…I have not troubled Israel that thou and thy father's house in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and thou has followed Balum.” Now therefore, he gives them direction what to do.

So here's the king, and he accuses the man of God to be the problem.

You know, we live in a world today, sometimes people, they blame the Christians for the problems. They blame people that try to live right and try to live holy all of a sudden we’re the ones making trouble we’re the ones with the problems that we’re the troublemakers. That's exactly the way Elijah was spoken to. That's why Ahab met Elijah and said “…are you the one that's troubling Israel?” Elijah didmn’t back down one bit and he said “…it's not me that's troubling Israel, but it's you and your father's house for you have, … the Scripture says you have forsaken the commandments of the **Lord** and have followed Balum.”

So here we find that Israel was resisting the word of God. They had deserted the way of God and that they was neglecting the work of God, and Idrael was far away from the Lord and God put a man by the name of Elijah in front of them and he came out preaching and came out presenting to them the judgment of the Lord upon them if they did not turn to the Lord. And so, when Ahab meets him, Ahab says, “… you're the one you’re the one that's troubling Israel.” And Elijah's says, “…it’s not me but you.” What a strong countenance Elijah must've had to stand before that the powers that there before him. The King of all of Israel and he said, “… you're the one that is troubling Israel because you've departed, you’ve gone away from the commandments of God, you followed after Bale, you're falling after false gods and your the problem.”

So here we find that Elijah has to come to face face with this wicked king. And that brings him to the point of realizing that it's not me, but it's you and course Elijah is in trouble for that. And we know the story and later on they have the confrontation between the prophets of Bale and Elijah. And he prays a very simple prayer and first Kings chapter number 18 and verse number 36 “…it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, here's his prayer very short, very simple, very to the point, but thank **God** the Lord answered he said “…Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel. Let it be know this day that thou art God in Israel and I am thy servant and I have done all of these things at thy word. Hear me oh Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God and that thou hast turned their heart back again. In the very next verse says then “…the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering.”

Here we have the man of God, Elijah, standing before the prophets of Bale. Of course the subject matter whatsoever answers by fire, whichever god answers by fire is the God that we are going to serve. And I said, “…if it be if it be Bale you will serve Bale and if it be God will serve God.” And so they had gone through their ritual and their whole day of cutting themselves and crying out to Bale. And of course there was no answer. You are not going to get an answer from an idol, you’re not going to get an answer from a false god. You’re not going to get an answer from a rock, you're not going to get an answer from an animal, you only go to get an answer from the God of heaven.

Elijah brings them to the point and says, “…one of us is going to come across here today, one of us is going to be the winner.” I think Elijah realized he knew the power of God, and he understood that God was going to answer his prayer.

All of us tonight, I'm sure we can go back in our life and remember times that God has answered our prayers, that God has done something special for us. I'm not talking about prayer that everybody is praying about that, but rather a very personal prayer of our own life. Nobody else maybe knows anything about it except God and God answers our prayer. It’s a wonderful things to know that God answers, God hears my prayer. It's a wonderful thing to know that God will hear and answer your prayer.

And so we find here the confrontation, and the purpose of this prayer is because Israel was destitute. Israel was in a terrible condition, physically, spiritually, every way. They were destitute. They had no bread. They had no water and all they had was what few things that could scrape up and Elijah was being taken care of by God. If you read in the chapters before Elijah was taken care of at the brook Elijah was taking care of the at the widow's house. Elijah was taken care of primarily totally by the Lord God of heaven, while everybody else was suffering Elijah was being provided for and the things that were given to him came from the Lord.

Now he has come to this point that there is will be an answer were going to find out who the real God is willing find out it's been image bail will serve by but if it's God you will serve God and so they were destitute. They were in desperation they had nothing to fall back on. Nothing left and now they turn to bail. They cry out to bail. They cry out to that false god that had been introduced to Israel by Ahab and Jezebel. The even the father's house before them, how they were wicked against the Lord and despise God and despise God's people and their in leadership you know it's it's it's good when good people in leadership my it's bad when bad peoples in leadership and there was Ahab and his wife was wicked, Jezebel. It's bad for that man rule a bad man about woman rule together against the Lord and God raises up Elijah that we read about in the New Testament as an example of a fervent righteous man praying to God for the answer that God would give him the answer in a time of destitution and desperation, but there's going to be a decision made today is the real God is going take care of this was going to be the one that we serve and so he comes and they have their day of foolishness. No religion today is many times very foolish things they do that they say it's all because of the Lord is very foreign from the things of the Lord and that they go through their ritual. They go through their prayer they go through their other things so I just ordered taunted them this and that. He said maybe. Maybe Bill just little babies going on a trip with an answer they cut themselves as they harm themselves physically. No answer my friend is no answer from anything and anyone except the God of heaven, so they were praying to idol that had no ears to hear and no eyes to see he had no mouth to speak, had no power to perform and they were praying all day long because the evening time we read in the evening sacrifice, that Elijah. He repaired the sacrifice the altar and he prays this short prayer, and he says hear me oh Lord, hear me the reason for that, and the purpose of this prayer is given here that this people may know that thou art the Lord God that word Lord there's all capital letters LYG and is the word that is for Jehovah thou art Jehovah. Thank God. Tonight we know who we said we can pray to him and he answers our prayer. He may not answer by fire as he did in this particular time. He may not answer by some miraculous thing that everybody can see that we know when God answers our prayers. We know when God speaks to our heart and God gives to us the understanding that everything's going to be okay and so the prayer came down from God out of heaven, and his powerful prayer. Elijah prayed heaven was moved God heard and God spoke to God and shut up heaven for those three years and six months because God told Elijah what was will take place. Elijah prayed and in writing not for 3 1/2 years. Can you imagine what what country would look like after three years and six months of no rain, no moisture, no due. Everything was barren. Everything was dead. Everything was dry for the was no water pushing the water is a type of the water of life. If you don't have water and I don't have life, and I will have vegetation if you don't have water in your body going to die and you don't have the water of life which is Jesus Christ you will die spiritually without him forever and forever without God's help. It was built when Elijah prayed he said Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God and his will. Elijah said God, would you not prove who you are to these people that a powerful prayer. God manifested his power. Elijah's prayer magnified God and so therefore God gave the answer in the fire of God fell down from heaven and consumed everything that was there at the altar, all the water that had been put on it. He would Elijah want to make sure that they couldn't blame him or accuse him of doing some trickery as we had more meltwater that which was very precious in those days because they were in the midst of the famine and then as water poured on the sacrifice and its branches soaked in the trench around it is for the water is running out and God sent down fire from heaven and licked up the water looked at the desk that had been there and licked up the rocks and consumed the altar and God's will do what is mentioned in the New Testament as a fervent prayer warrior. The effectual fervent prayer of thank God receives the answer from the Lord our God was moved toward man and he proved himself to that generation as to who he was. Elijah prayed and it rain not Elijah prayed in the fire for and that's what after that Elijah prays and there's water on the earth. Thank God for the prayer of a righteous person. You will find is a test of who truly is God. Is it bail. If it's bail, then let's see him answer. They set the rules they set the weight of the answer. Who would serve and they said whoever answers by fire were what I will serve. And Elijah said that's fine for you know Elijah already knew that God was going to answer his prayer. This was a test to prove to a generation of Israelites that had long forsaken the Lord that there is a God in heaven. You and I tonight. We must understand, we must realize even though we live in the midst of a group among a lot of people that no longer care about God no longer desire to hear about God no longer want to talk about God, but one of these days they're going to know who God really is. One of these days it will stand before in the Bible says every knee shall bow every aching atheist that says there is no God. What they feel about toward that one. That is God. Every person that has rejected the Lord Jesus Christ. One day, every knee shall bow, and then the Bible says, every tongue, every mouth is going to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the father, thank God. Tonight we have a Savior. His name is Jesus, you talk about God all you want to around people they don't get too upset with you when you interject the name of Jesus Christ. Then you start a problem. It's all right to have you prayer, but don't ended in the name of Jesus, and wonder why that because that his name the wicked rebel against the it's all right to pray to your God. When you pray, and you handed in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They they raise up all the things in their problems and they began to fight against you because we don't want him just like usual set will not have them rule over us. One of these days every person that's rejected every person that rebelled every person that has rebuked God and turned her back up all got one day they shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord Elijah here prayed, God answered his prayer the product that is showing the foolishness of the world. It showed that those those profits of bail. How out of touch they were with who they were, what they needed. It showed all the crowd that was watching that there was a God in heaven that was the whole point of Elijah praying to God's as well that they may know that they may know that there is a God in Israel that they may know, old Lord Jehovah, that they may know that you are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that they need to. Abraham was the new Jacob was a lady who Isaac was. But they did know who God was, you know all the details about the Bible but you don't know the Lord you lost out on eternity by God help us tonight to know not only who Jesus is and some things about him, but my we know him in our heart and in our life. The falseness of bail was displayed by him could not answer bail could not do bail could not send fire because bail was just a figment of their imagination. We are told today that is a believer, we are archaic and were unlearned and we all know too much and were not not too smart. As far as the world is concerned that what you have all those things said about you, but if you know Jesus Christ that's the main thing I got one day I met him by God to give their listing. Probably you met him a few testing you have not met him. I'm glad tonight. You could do that. I'm glad you could come to realize that is not some God out there that we cannot reach some God doesn't care it over. If you study the religions of the world you will find that most people are afraid of their gods. They do things to please their God. They do things to make sure that God is not angry with them all our God. You don't have to worry about him. He's angry with the wicked every day for you and either a child of God. He loves us. He is concerned about us. He wants to help us and stifle to us. Elijah, a man fervently prayed that God answered his prayer that God gave him the answer and all of Israel realized there is a God in heaven. You and I tonight we live in a world that's a wicked place that denies righteousness and holiness. They deny the word of God. One of these days, Lord Jesus is going to reveal himself to them and they will say Lord, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus some other person. But that Jesus is the son of God by God help us to be faithful and true in the calling that the Lord gives to us that we be like Elijah to pray fervently and may God answer our prayer. There's times that. Like I said last Wednesday. Sometimes we think God then here's what he does. Sometimes we think God not want answers but will God has his time God has his place God has his way and is always on time, right place, and always true and correct and good for us by the Lord help us tonight to pray and move heaven. You know, some ice lost. You know somebody that really do not believe their Christian I believe we can move heaven for them. I will even cry out to God and pray for them that the Lord would open their heart that they might see and delete that they might understand that they need a work of the Lord in the MAB. What will you family members him a piece many of your family members, like probably all of us need to pray for families, pray for those that need the Lord I pray that God would help them. Maybe it's not a relative, but just a friend and they they know not God best thing you do for him is to pray for them and ask God to open their heart that they may come to know him as a personal savior. Lord bless you and I pray God bless his word and pray that he will use it in our life that we can serve him in these days in which we live spell for prayer our father, thank you tonight for your love upon us. Thank you for the moving of the spirit of God upon our life one day and we came to know and realize that there was a God in heaven. We came to understand that God sent his son Jesus Christ to die on the cross of Calvary to shed his blood to live his life that I might have life. Thank you Lord for salvation that you bestowed upon us what help us to pray in such a way that those around us with no that there is a God in heaven help us Lord to magnify him and show him to a lost and dying world. We pray these things in Jesus name, amen. I bless you tonight. Our prayers are with you