

## PRAYING FOR RAIN

1 Kings 18:39-46

### I. THE WORK OF REPENTANCE

**A. Baal's claim is discredited before the people.** (18:26, 29; Jer 10:5)—not able to answer or to provide

1. **He does not answer—no rain, no fire.** Idols can't deliver.
2. **His prophets are executed** (Deut 13:1-5; Jer 19:4-5)—Mosaic Law.

**B. The LORD's claim is proved before the people.** (Jer 33:3; Eph 3:20)

1. **He sends fire from heaven.**— complete "shock and awe"!
2. **The people acknowledge that He is God.** (v. 39).
3. **Now the LORD will provide rain.**— a *mighty storm*!

**C. You cannot have revival without repentance.** (2 Chron 7:14; Acts 3:19)

### II. THE SOUND OF RAIN (v. 41)—Rain is a picture of renewal

**A. God alone is the source of life and blessing.** (Jas1:17)

1. **Rain was necessary for physical and economic survival.** (Mat 6:11, 31)
2. **Rain is also symbolic of spiritual revival.** (1 Kin 18:37; Ps 72:6; Hos 6:2-3)

**B. Faith is aware of what it cannot see.** (18:41; Heb 11:1)

- **Based upon the word of God**

### III. THE PRAYER OF FAITH (v. 42; Jas 5:17-18)

**A. The motive of Elijah's prayer is the glory of God.** (v. 36; Mat 6:9)

**B. Elijah prays according to God's will.** (Mat 6:10)

1. He knows the will of God. (Jn 15:7)

2. His prayer brings about God's will on earth. (Jas 5:17-18)

**C. Elijah's prayer is persistent.** (vs. 42-44; Lk 11:5-10 & 18:1-8)

He won't rest until he sees the answer accomplished on earth.

1. Earnest in prayer (Gen 32:26; Jas 5:17-8)—serious, intense

2. Waiting in prayer (Ps 27:14; Ps 130:5-6)—counting on God to act

a. Waiting searches our hearts and tests our resolve.

b. Persistent prayer is accomplishing things in the unseen realm long before we can see the visible result.

3. Watching in prayer (Mic 7:7; Mt 26:41)—**staying alert and expectant**

a. **Sometimes we are called to pray a *long time* without any visible encouragement.** (Lk 11:9-10)

b. **Don't despise small beginnings.** (Zec 4:10)

c. **Follow God's lead and watch for His timing.**

**IV. RUNNING BEFORE THE CHARIOT** (v. 46)

**A. Personal Concern**—warning Ahab of the impending storm

• **We should care about the wellbeing of those we confront.**

**B. Uncommon Humility**—Attending chariot behavior of a loyal subject

1. **Humility shows proper respect for those it rebukes.**

2. **Humility does not demand special recognition.**

**C. Supernatural Power** (v. 46; Isa 40:29-31; Phil 4:13)—unusual physical strength, energy and motivation

1. **God's power to work wonders** (Ex 13:3; Josh 4:23-24)

2. **God's gracious favor to facilitate and provide** (Ne 2:8)

3. **God's deliberate, personal, miraculous intervention** (Ps 37:24; Is 41:13; Phil 4:13)

## **Let It Rain**

Michael W. Smith/*Worship*

**Let it rain, let it rain**

**Open the floodgates of Heaven...**

(Repeats indefinitely...)

The Lord reigns, Let the earth be glad  
Let the distant shores rejoice  
Clouds and thick darkness surround Him  
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne  
Fire goes before Him and consumes His foes on every side  
His lightening lights up the world  
The earth sees and trembles  
The mountains melt like wax before the Lord  
Before the Lord of all the earth  
The heavens proclaim His righteousness  
And all peoples will see His glory

Oh, we want to see your glory, God  
Oh God, we want to see your glory  
You want to see His glory?  
Lift your voices, lift your hands  
We want to see your glory, God  
Oh, send down your power  
O God, send your glory  
We want to see you move in our generations, Oh God  
Come and move, God, come and move amongst us  
We want to see Your power, we want to see Your glory  
O God, we love You  
O God, rain on us  
Rain on us, Oh God, Rain on us, Oh God...

**Let it rain, let it rain**

**Open the floodgates of Heaven**

(Repeats indefinitely...)

Music Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghHfnXPp2AA&feature=share>