

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 11-7-10 PM NOTES
"OVERCOMING DISCOURAGEMENT"
1 KINGS 19:1-18
(Non-Series Message)

James 5:17a (NKJV) "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours..."

Psalms 42:5a (NKJV) "Why are you **cast down**, O my soul?"

2 Corinthians 7:5-6 (ESV) "5 For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn— fighting without and fear within. 6 But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus."

The devil's three-fold objective for every believer:

1. To despoil him of his wealth in Christ
2. To decoy him from his walk
3. To disable him from his warfare

I. The Onset of Discouragement

1 Kings 18:27 (ESV) "And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, 'Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.'"

1 Kings 18:36b-37 (NKJV) "36 Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You *are* God in Israel and I *am* Your servant, and *that* I have done all these things at Your word. 37 Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You *are* the Lord God, and *that* You have turned their hearts back *to You* again."

1 Kings 18:38 (NKJV) "Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that *was* in the trench."

1 Kings 18:40 (NKJV) "And Elijah said to them, 'Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!' So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there."

A. Exhaustion

B. Disappointment

1 Kings 18:21 (NKJV) "And Elijah came to all the people, and said, 'How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord *is* God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.' But the people answered him not a word."

1 Kings 18:39 (NKJV) "Now when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces; and they said, 'The Lord, He *is* God! The Lord, He *is* God!'"

C. Self-Pity

2 Corinthians 10:12 (NKJV) “For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.”

Fatigue + Disappointment + Self-Pity = Discouragement

“Self-pity weeps on the devil’s shoulder, turning to Satan for comfort. His invitation is, ‘Come unto me all you that are grieved, peevd, misused, disgruntled, and I will spread on you sympathy. You will find me a never-failing source of the meanest attitudes and the most selfish sort of misery. At my altar you may feel free to fail and fall, and there to sigh and fret. There I will feed your soul on fears, and indulge your ego with envy, jealousy, bitterness and spite. There I will excuse you from every cross, duty, and hardship.’”

—Unknown

II. The Overcoming of Discouragement

A. Focus on God

“When trouble comes to you and doesn’t lead you to worship God, you sure have wasted a lot of trouble.”

—Adrian Rogers

James 4:8a (NKJV) “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

B. Focus on Your Purpose

C. Focus on Your Task