

WHEN FEELINGS COME UPON YOU

Feelings... they just come upon you. Have you ever felt you were unworthy? Or you felt superior to others? One minute you feel worthy, then you feel unworthy. You may feel superior, and the next minute you are insecure. You could be feeling joyful, but suddenly be depressed. Have you felt loved and then unloved? It is amazing, isn't it? You felt needed and then felt like you never should have been born. All of these feelings come upon you.

A great victory chapter, a great lesson of faith is in *1st Kings, Chapter 19*. Here the Lord stood up and showed himself mighty. Elijah spoke, and fire came down from heaven and consumed the altar and everything around it. Note that Elijah prepared for the fire before it came down. When you believe God for something, you take the steps of preparation before it comes to pass.

Elijah told the people to dig a mote around the altar and fill it with water, and then cover the altar with water. This showed that he was getting ready for the fire to manifest when he spoke. You have to know that fire from heaven will come down when you speak in the name of Jesus and that God will answer your prayer. You *really* need to know that; otherwise those feelings (or those thoughts) will steal from you.

The false prophets cut themselves with knives and tried to do all kinds of things to get their god to move. Elijah stood and called to them, "Is your god deaf that he can't hear you?" And they kept doing things to get their god to act.

Many people do that. They try get God to do something, but the Lord says, "I will move in the name of Jesus. Whatever you ask in my name, I will do." God will do it. God will make it come to pass. He will make it happen. It is faith in God and obedience to what He says to do that moves the Lord to action, not our self-efforts or ideas. Elijah was doing what the Lord told him to do.

Feelings will stand against the word of God in your life and will cause you to doubt. They will cause you to fear, and not move ahead into what the Lord has given you to do. Have you ever had a relationship in which you suddenly felt that people didn't like you or want you around? You knew

they wanted you around, and you knew they liked you. Yet the feeling came.

Have you thought that God doesn't love you? It is obvious God does love you. He came down from the heavens. He made Himself a body. He gave Himself a name, Jesus. He lived for you, died for you, rose from the dead for you, went back up to heaven for you. He says, "I won't leave you alone." Is that not love?

However, feelings say, "He doesn't love me. He isn't with me. He is somewhere else."

You must be able to distinguish whether those feelings are yours, or whether they are something of God that is true. Feelings are not always true, and yet there are true feelings. They come from God through your new spirit - love, joy, peace, etc. ***Galatians 5:21-22*** Don't ever think that the Lord doesn't have feelings.

Feelings have been perverted through sin and demonic influence in people's lives (the mind or soul realm). Self got in the way and those feelings were perverted.

Good "God-feelings" always line up with His Word and with His truth. When my feelings are not lining up with what God says is the truth, or His perception of the situation, then I have a problem. I have to cast down those feelings. I have to take control of those thoughts and bring them captive to the mind of Christ, and I have to tell those feelings to leave me. ***2nd Corinthians 10:3-5***

Elijah was preparing for a great victory. When he spoke, the fire of God came down from the heavens. Elijah did the preparation. He heard from God and what God wanted him to do. When it was the right time, he spoke. The fire came down! He saw the results.

Ahab told Jezebel everything that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the false prophets with the sword. ***1st Kings 19:1*** Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah saying, "May the gods deal with me be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life, like one of them." (Meaning, you're dead. I'm going to make sure you die).

This was an evil woman speaking. Do you know that there are evil men and there are evil women? Ahab was an evil man, and he was married to an evil woman. They were birds of a feather.

This woman was beyond expectation as far as evil is concerned. Ahab asked Naboth if he could buy his vineyard, but Naboth said, "No, this belongs to our family. It is our inheritance. It is our heritage. It is our plot, and I don't have the freedom to sell it." Then Ahab got depressed.

Do you realize that depression is a feeling? Many times it comes when you don't get what you want. (You don't get your way.) When you didn't get what you wanted as a child, did you bump your head on the floor, kick over chairs, or yell a lot? Did you hold your breath until you turned blue? As a grown-up, do you still do the same things but in a more sophisticated way?

Ahab was depressed, and Jezebel asked, "What's your problem? What are you so sad about?" He said, "Naboth won't give me his vineyard." She consoled, "Don't worry about it. I'll take care of it." She went out and had Naboth killed, and they confiscated the property.

This is the kind of woman the prophet was dealing with. When she said something, she meant business. Just think what would happen if God's people meant business for good as much as this woman meant business for evil!

The word that came to Elijah from Jezebel, not from God, is that by that time tomorrow he would be dead. You can understand why Elijah was afraid. Have you ever experienced feelings of fear? It is the opposite of faith, and it is a spiritual force. What this woman spoke in the spirit realm was evil. It had an impact upon the spiritual man of God.

We are spiritual people. Jezebel's threat went into Elijah's soul. It went into his mind. He started to think about it after he heard it, and fear was produced. In the same way, you can hear the good news of faith and immediately the word of faith is produced in you. Jezebel's word struck fear into him.

When those feelings come, you have to deal with them. David had to challenge thoughts of depression too. **Psalm 42** You cannot let them take hold of you. Elijah was afraid and ran for his life.

When those feelings come, you have to stand up and deal with them. You can't run from them. You can't hide from them. Otherwise, they will get down inside of you and something will be produced that will not be of God.

Elijah had an opportunity to do that. When the word came, he had an opportunity to stand up and do something with it, just as he stood up against all the prophets of Baal and those who were opposing God. He had no problem doing that.

Something happened. He didn't stand up to it. He was an incredible man of God as far as boldness was concerned, but something happened within him at that point.

After you had a great victory with the Lord, did something soon happen to take away your joy? It is amazing. You can be doing so well, everything is going along, and all of a sudden your joy is sucked out of you. You forget about all the good things that have been happening, and, instead of dealing with it, you fall.

You start to feel that you are all alone. You start to feel that you are a failure. You forget about the things God has done. There is one thing you keep dwelling on, and it isn't good or of God. It is negative.

Elijah came to Beersheba in Judah where he left his servant while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. *1st Kings 19:3*

When you are expressing these feelings, you don't want to be around people - you withdraw. Even if you are in a crowd, you withdraw. You just sit there all by yourself. You don't want anyone to speak to you. You don't want anyone around. You don't want to talk to anyone. Even though inside you really do want people around and you do want to talk.

Like Jonah, Elijah came to a broom tree and prayed that he might die. You don't want anybody around when you're going to die, right? So what did he feel at that point? He felt his life was over, and he figured he would rather have God take him than to have Jezebel get him.

Elijah was acting out his feelings. This was not God's direction. Elijah was allowing his feelings to have power over him.

It is your choice to be joyful or to be depressed. When you are in Jesus, it is your choice. Before you are in Jesus, you don't have the power to deal with

it. You can go to psychologists or psychiatrists and read all of the self-help books you want. You can run all over the land and still not get help, except the help that comes from the Lord. There is always a void within you that only God can fill. So you are always seeking, always searching, never satisfied, never content, never fulfilled.

Elijah came to this place (this great man of God, who, when he prayed, caused the heavens to open up). The book of James mentions him: "*Elijah was a man just like us.*" What is common to him is common to all. Because God answered Elijah's prayer, He will answer my prayer.

Depression is a common thing. It comes to anybody at any time, but we have to deal with it, don't we? **Psalm 42:** "*Why art thou cast down, oh my soul?*" David asked. He was depressed because Saul was after his life. David challenged that feeling, and he spoke aloud, "This is not right! *Hope thou in God for I will yet praise Him.*" He caught the feeling and said, "This is not God's feeling." This is not God. God's feeling is hope. Elijah didn't do that, God's mercy is fresh and new every day.

Faith cannot rise up in you when you keep putting a lid on it. There comes a point when you have to say, "I'm willing to get fixed up." You have to say, "Enough is enough. I'm tired of this. Jesus is my Lord! By His grace and His mercy, I'm going to get up, and I'm going to start all over again. I have places to go and people to see." Amen.

Elijah said, "I have had enough, Lord; take my life. I'm no better than my ancestors." He had forgotten all of the things that God had done. He was not denying the Lord's presence. He was just giving up.

Who determines when you are finished? God does, not Jezebel, not your husband, not your wife, not your children, not your friends, and not you. Only the Lord determines when you are finished. It is important to understand that.

Your life belongs to God. You are precious in His sight. He cares about you. He loves you. He has a good plan and destiny for your life. **Jeremiah 29:11-13**

Have you reacted to your negative feelings? Did you find that it was not a good thing? When you are reacting to your feelings, it is never good. It is never God, because it is not God's feeling. It is your flesh emotions. You

can tell because there is no faith in God. God's emotions are based on faith in God. Guilt, fear, jealousy, and bitterness are not of God.

After Elijah said, "Take my life, Lord..." he lay down and fell asleep. Thank God for falling asleep. When you are sleeping, your "stinkin' thinkin'" is not working as well. Even more importantly, you are not confessing or speaking out negative thoughts. You are not acting it out. You are sleeping. It is better to be awake and moving. However, if you are moving in the wrong direction and not seeing any point of return into the right direction, it is better to be sleeping.

So Elijah fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and he lay down again. He was exhausted.

People are susceptible to negative feelings when they are overtired or under stress. Take a rest or a break. Lift your thoughts to the Lord. Thank the Lord, and cast your cares on Him. *Isaiah 26:3, Psalm 121, I Peter 5:6-7, Philippians 4:4-8*

You have to be in that spot to realize what is going on. God supernaturally supplied the hot meal for Elijah. It was ready for him, even though he was still thinking negatively. He was still caught up in what was going on within himself. Elijah didn't really say thank you. He just ate and lay down again.

Have you been in that place before?

The Lord was trying to demonstrate to Elijah that he cared about him and loved him... that he needed to move on with his life and get out of that place.

So Elijah lay down again. The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him, saying "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you."

Elijah had decided to take this trip because he was running and hiding. He had withdrawn, but the Lord was on the trip with him. We know that because God sent His angel to Elijah. God never left him, He never forsook him. God was his helper.

Angels only obey the command of our Father God. The Lord wanted to show him that even though he was running the other way, "I'm still with you."

Elijah was reacting to the fear for his life with his feelings. Elijah did not acknowledge the Lord, but he loved the Lord, and he knew the Lord loved him.

This is the paradox or the contradiction. Elijah chose to say, "I don't want to get out of these feelings and get on with God's life." He was tired.

Elijah got up, and ate and drank. Strengthened by the food, he traveled 40 days and 40 nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. There he went into a cave and spent the night.

When people are depressed, they often don't eat. They don't drink; they don't really care too much about anything. Why? They want to die. They want to withdraw. They don't want to deal with their life.

The Lord said, "No. You have places to go." God was guiding Elijah's trip now. He was going to help him. The Lord was his helper, but He wanted him to work things through. The only person who can work things through is you! **2nd Timothy 2:24-26**

A counselor can only present to you what is going on over here, and what is going on over there. The Lord said, "*Today I set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Now choose life.*" **Deuteronomy 30:19**

Elijah reached his destination and went into a cave to spend the night. Then the word of the Lord came to Him, "What are you doing here, Elijah? Why are you here?"

You can go anywhere you want to go, but God knows wherever you go, and He is there. He cares. He loves. He wants to help you and bless you. **Psalm 139, Jeremiah 29:11-12** You have to know why you go where you go. Ask yourself, "Why am I thinking what I'm thinking and doing what I'm doing?"

God was getting at Elijah's motivation. He wanted Elijah to know why Elijah has come to this place. He wanted Elijah to know the motivation of his heart. **Proverbs 16:2**

When God asked, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, put your prophets to death with the sword, and I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

What had happened to Elijah before he ran away? Let's look at it. God had established His covenant; the fire came down from heaven, confirming Him as the God of the universe, the one true God. He said they had broken down God's altars when God had torn down all of their altars. He said, "And they put your prophets to death with the sword."

What had Elijah done? He had killed all the prophets of Baal with the sword. You see Elijah's thinking was totally wrong. When your feelings are running your life, and you are out of sorts with God, then your perception of everything around you is warped. Whenever you are thinking negatively, you are running and hiding. You are not trusting in God and acting by faith.

Some people don't have any concern as long as the problem isn't directed toward others. But when it is directed to them personally, it is another story, like when Satan told God, "Why don't you take your hand off of Job? Then let's see whether he blesses you or curses you."

The Lord doesn't listen to our wrong thinking. He only responds to faith. He was not listening to what Elijah said.

Then the Lord told Elijah, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord. For the Lord is about to pass by." In other words, "Forget this story, and let's concentrate on my presence. Go out and you change your situation."

There are many times when you have to change your situation. You have to get out of that place. If you are sitting in the house feeling sorry for yourself, you need to get up and go outside. Do something different. Go to the park. Just get out of there and start to focus your thoughts on the Lord and His presence, rather than on yourself and your situation. God is greater!

The Lord said to get into His presence. Elijah talked to God in the cave, but God didn't want to stay in the cave. It was ugly and dark in there.

The Lord told Elijah to go out and stand on the mountain. ***Psalm 121*** Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind, there was

an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. After the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then the voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected Your covenant, broken down Your altars, and put Your prophets to death with the sword. I'm the only one left. Now they are trying to kill me too."

Haven't we heard that before? Isn't this the exact story verbatim -word for word, line upon line? When you are trapped in such feelings, you rehearse your story. You rehearse it so much that you actually believe it, even though it is false. It is what we call playing old tapes, over and over and over again. People say the same story to everyone they talk to.

The Lord said to Elijah, "Go back the way you came and go to the desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also anoint Jehu son of Nimshi, king over Israel. (He was going to take Ahab's place). Anoint Elisha, son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah, to succeed you as prophet, and Jehu will put to death any who escaped the sword of Hazael."

The Lord was saying, "Get on with your life. I don't want you doing what you are doing. Quit feeling sorry for yourself. Let's get up and let's get going! Okay! All right!" But God said it in a way that He didn't find fault with Elijah. He didn't condemn him for his thinking, nor did He belittle him for it. He just said, "Let's go, let's move on. We have places to go and people to see, things to do, let's get on with it, and let's get the job done together!" Remember: Elijah had forgotten the Lord was for him and with him.

Many people belittle themselves by feeling bad that they disobeyed God, and they condemn themselves that they didn't go on with God. They feel they went into a depression, and this happened and that happened. You must put it behind you. Release it to the Lord by asking the Lord's help. Seek the Lord. Start rejoicing in the Lord (His presence). Seek and ask for His wisdom. Do in faith what the Lord shows you to do.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete,

not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave on the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does." James 1:2-8

Then the Lord added this: "By the way, Elijah. *Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel – all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him.*"

It meant, "You are not alone. Your information is not accurate. It is not correct and it is not true. So dump it and get on with it. Quit rehearsing the story. Speak God's promises and faith in God. Praise Him for all His wonderful deeds."

By the way, the prophet later proclaimed a word from the Lord that Jezebel was going to be eaten by the dogs. Her own people threw her out the window, and she was eaten by the dogs. Who ended up having the last word? - THE LORD!

The word of faith went out. God turned the nation around and events took place. I have told people who want to be like Jezebel, "The dogs are going to eat you." You don't come against the prophet of God. You don't come against the anointing of God. You don't come against the word of God unless you intend to curse yourself.

Understand this: hate the feelings that are contrary to the word of God, because that is a Jezebel spirit working. It is an evil spirit working. It is contradicting the anointing of God that says; "I will stand. I will succeed. I will not fail and I will rejoice in the Lord. I will bring glory to God. I will see the thing completed that God has given me to do and nothing in hell can stop it from happening because God is for me. And if God be for me, who can be against me?" **Romans 8 & Romans 4:17-21**

Elijah did go on, and you never hear another thing about his story. He got over it! This was probably only about a week of his life!!!

The End? - Or a new beginning? The choice is yours.

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but

not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that His life may be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

It is written: 'I believed; therefore I have spoken.' With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in His presence. All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

*Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." **2nd Corinthians 4:7-18***