

Alone but not Alone #3

God's Handprint of Power

Word

Scripture Reference

1 Kings 17:17-24

Discussion Questions

1. Was there a time in your life when you've felt helpless? How did you deal with it? Share with the group.
2. God had used a widow to provide for Elijah. As a result of the widow's faith in the living God, she and her son had enough provision to sustain them through the drought. However, something unfortunate happened even before the drought was over. Read 1 Kings 17:17-24. From this passage God shows us how to see His handprint of power. First, God brings you to a point of utter helplessness (v. 17-18). What heartbreaking thing happened to the widow? Whom did she blame for this tragedy (v. 18)? Why did she feel guilty? What's the usual reaction of people who go through misery? Could you blame them for their reaction?
3. Elijah was a prophet of God who could have done something to keep the child from dying, but both he and the widow were utterly helpless. They couldn't do anything. Why did God bring them to this harsh helplessness? Discuss why God allows heartbreaking things to happen to His children. Was there a time in your life when you fully surrendered and depended on the omnipotence of God because you felt helpless? Share with the group.
4. Second, God wants you to learn that in utter helplessness, you can pray (v. 19-21). Elijah might have been helpless, but he knew that God could do something. What did he do to the child knowing that God's handprint of power would change the boy's situation (v. 19)? What uncharacteristic prayer did he utter (v. 20-21)? Have you ever questioned God while going through a troubling situation? Do you think God would understand if you do so?
5. Before Elijah's time, there has never been a recorded instance of God raising someone from the dead. Elijah prayed an impossible request to the omnipotent God, but he knew that God could make it happen. Many Christians put God in the box because they don't believe in what He can do. Some complain that they can't see the power of God because they don't really believe that God answers prayers. Share with the group how you've prayed for something that was apparently impossible, but God answered it and showed you just how powerful He is. On the other hand, God can also show His power when He doesn't answer your prayer. Have you ever experience that? Share with the group.
6. Third, God wants you to see His handprint of power in your prayer (v. 22). What happened to the child after Elijah prayed? Do you think Elijah was shocked to see him revived? What makes a person become a man or a woman of faith? What impossibility do you want your Heavenly Father to do for you? How would you react if God answered that prayer?
7. Lastly, God wants us to respond appropriately when God's power is seen (v. 23-24). What was the widow's response after seeing her child alive again? To whom did she give credit for the miracle that happened to her child? What lesson can you learn from her response upon seeing God's power?

Walk

Elijah never promised the widow that her son would live. Even though he made a request to God and believed that God can grant that request if He wills, Elijah never demanded that God grant his impossible request. In the same way, you don't have the right to demand from God. You can pray and make an appeal, but not demand. And yet, in order to see the handprint of God's power, He might bring you to a point of utter helplessness so that in your helplessness, you would pray. God loves to do the impossible. Are you allowing Him to do it in your life? Do you depend on Him as you face each new trial in your life?

Worship & Prayer

Father, though I know that You are the God who makes the impossible possible, sometimes I don't act like I really believe it. I pray that you would allow me the opportunity to see just how powerful You are. Enable me to see and recognize Your handprint of power, and give me the strength to be ready when it happens. In Christ name I pray, Amen.