

# 1 Kings 17-19

## The spirit & power of Elijah lives on

Lord's day evening: 1 April 2007  
Preacher: Geoff Findlay

### Introduction

Conveying the blessing to those who weren't there  
Coming down from the mountain

## 1. The spirit & power of Elijah

Praying for what God wants us to pray:

- Not for what other people expect us to pray
- Not that man's chief end is to be free of pain & enjoy himself forever

Praying when God wants us to pray:

- Praying as a first resort not a last resort
- Praying w persistence

Praying how God wants us to pray:

- Pouring cold water on our own efforts
- Pouring out our hearts in repentance

Praying for things that are bound to happen anyway:

- Because it confirms our personal participation
- Because it consolidates our relationship with the living God

Praying in despair:

- When we have focussed on our expectations rather than on God
- When we have given up hope, God has not given up on us

## 2. The spirit & power of Elijah lives on

Living on in Elisha:

1 Kings 19<sup>16-21</sup>

- A man who burnt his bridges

Living on in John the Baptist:

Luke 1<sup>17</sup>

- A man who pointed to Christ

Living on in you & me:

James 5<sup>16-17</sup>

- A man just like us who nevertheless prayed powerfully & effectively

### Discussion



### Questions answered



What is a common expectation in our community about how Christians ought to pray?



Should we pray for what people expect us to pray for?



What is man's chief end?



What is wrong with the idea of "When all else fails, pray"?



When might it be wise to pour cold water on our own efforts?  
Does this mean that we don't really need to try very hard?



What is the point of praying for things that are bound to happen anyway?



Why does Elijah despair after the Mt Carmel incident?  
What does this teach us about ourselves?



Does God give up on Elijah when Elijah gives up hope?  
What does this teach us about God?



What is symbolised in Elisha's burning of his ploughing equipment?  
How can this apply to us?



Why can each one of us be so encouraged by the promise that "the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5<sup>16-17</sup>)?



### Things to pray about



Thanksgiving that we have the same God as Elijah had.



Learning to pray like Elijah



Continuing to learn to pray like Elijah



### Search the Scriptures



Is there any difference between Elisha's request "*Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye, and then I will come to you*" (1 Kings 19<sup>20</sup>) and that of the disciple who said to Jesus "*Lord, first let me go and bury my father.*" (Matthew 8<sup>21</sup>). Why might that be? What can we learn from this?