

Elijah: Learning to Follow God
Principles of Prayer From Mt. Carmel
1 Kings 18:41-46 (page 247)

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Elijah provides five principles of prayer that we can learn from in our own prayer lives:

When I seek God in prayer

- It is beneficial to separate myself from all distractions (18:41-42a; Matt 6:5-8; Mark 1:35)
- I should come in humility and dependence (18:42b)
- I am to pray with expectancy (18:43a; Dan 9:1-4a; Acts 12:1-16; James 4:1-3)
- I am to pray with persistence (18:43b; Luke 11:5-12; 1 Thess 5:17-18)
- I am to pray with confidence (18:44; Psalm 37:4; John 15:7-8; 1 John 5:13-15)

The result:

- God's promise is fulfilled (18:45; 2 Cor 1:18-22; Luke 24:44)
- God provides me new empowerment (18:46; Acts 4:31-35)

Zeroing in...

Be honest...how would you evaluate your prayer life? Non-existent; when I have a crisis; occasional - when I think about something; only when I am asked to pray for someone or something; regular; daily. Are you satisfied with that? What will you do? _____

Do you have a place where you pray that is free from distractions? Does your posture (sitting, kneeling, standing, etc.) in prayer affect your prayer experience? Explain. _____

"Persistent" means indefatigable, tenacious, stubborn, steady. Does "persistence" describe your prayer life? Why or why not? How can you become more persistent in your prayer life? Discuss. _____

Are you growing toward a more mature place in your prayer life? What are some habits you could cultivate to help get there? Be specific. _____

How does the Scripture affect how you pray? How could knowing God's Word better make you more effective in prayer? Explain. _____

What struck you most about this story? What do you think God wants you to learn from this story? What will you do about that? _____

Pray that God will help you learn to pray effectively.