

not bowed the knee to Baal (1 Kings 19:18). The apostle Paul refers to this in his epistle to the Romans —

Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, “LORD, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life”? But what does the divine response say to him? “I have reserved for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace (Romans 11:2–5).

God doesn't have to use us in His kingdom work. But He does. He expects more of us than we sometimes do of ourselves. He lifts us up! We need to stop looking in our mirrors of personal despair and loneliness and we need to look to Him who saved us by His grace! “For consider [Jesus] who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls” (Hebrews 12:3). “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up” (James 4:10).

In our service to God we may sometimes feel alone, like Elijah. But we serve the same great and Almighty Jehovah he did. And like Elijah, we need to move away from our caves of solitude and go in the direction the Lord is leading us.

We would like to believe depression is easy to get over, but sometimes it's not. Pray for more faith (Luke 17:5) because, “Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).



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THINGS ABOVE

“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth”

— [Colossians 3:1–2] —

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The Elijah Syndrome

By Jamey Hinds

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours” (James 5:17). The context of this statement is about prayer — “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (v. 16). But for a few moments I would like for us to think about Elijah's insecurity.

Elijah was a very bold prophet for Jehovah. He's the one who daringly challenged 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah to gather at Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18). “Elijah came near to all the people and said, ‘How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.’ But the

people did not answer him a word” (1 Kings 18:21). The people lacked courage to declare their allegiances, but Elijah would press the issue.

Despite the great victory for Jehovah, Elijah felt very alone. It is possible he thought the conflict between himself and King Ahab and Queen Jezebel were over. The biblical records shares with us (1 Kings 18:45–46) that Elijah goes back to Jezreel — the very place where both Ahab and Jezebel were! Things were only going to get worse for Elijah:

Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.” And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, “It is enough; now, O LORD, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers” (1 Kings 19:1–4).

The threat from Jezebel causes Elijah to withdraw physically and mentally. He is fatigued, no doubt, by the intense clash between himself and the 950 false prophets. He seems to have let his guard down; and now he’s literally on the run for his life — and he feels alone. Part of the reason why Elijah is afraid of Jezebel — a much more violent and power-hungry personality even than her husband — is because she had already “cut off the

prophets of the LORD” (1 Kings 18:4; 19:10; 2 Kings 9:7). “The resistance of one person (Jezebel) has turned massive victory into overwhelming defeat, in Elijah’s mind” (ESVSB).

The great prophet suffered from a fairly common problem: depression. Depression can be wielded by Satan as a scheme (Ephesians 6:11) against us, crippling us in our Lord’s service. It can render us practically useless. And what is so surprising is how quickly depression can hit us. And we need to be diligent not to allow depression to fester and become despair!

Depression can cause us to see things differently than they actually are — mountains explode from molehills. The slightest statement (or look) from a brother or sister in Christ might be misconstrued as an attempt to ruin us spiritually.

Not everyone becomes depressed, but most people do experience these lows from time to time. Consider the apostle Paul as one who had plenty to be depressed about (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:22-33). In our estimation of him, Paul was a great servant of the Lord, much akin to Elijah of old. But it is Paul who wrote,

I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me (Philippians 4:11–13).

With Elijah, he wasn’t alone. Truly, he had Jehovah with him. But he also had 7,000 others who, like him, had