

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!

³⁴ “Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵ “Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay them?”

³⁶ For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be the glory forever! Amen.

12:1 therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
Romans 11:33–12:2 (NIV)

**Life is A Daring
Adventure**

- We live in a world like Elijah— Note: Describe the God you reject and my guess that is not the God I worship
- We have a choice—where do we place our trust
- We have choice—let life happen or make it adventure—
- Baal—God for everything—(medicine, sex, money, leisure, me)
- Baal—God of heaven—so no rain—send into heart of Baal country
- God will confront the Gods in you life
- Elijah not many words—but obedience/prayer—
- But we are not saved by our obedience—we are obedient because of Jesus

- God is an outsider God
 - Luke 4 (shatters barriers, all other god's—obey me, if/than—God comes to sinners/saves sinners—obedience is out of who he is, and not to be saved—note—God saves Elijah through sinful woman—will we allow others to serve us—get in relationship)
 - Abraham, Peter, Paul, Moses, Joshua (get out of comfort zone—leave familiar/risk/let go of life)
- Living God—do you have a living God or god you projected—do you have a God of grace or one who makes you feel better than others— it's complicated
 - You are more sinful than you ever dared believe
 - You are more loved/accepted in Christ than you ever dared hope
- Stretched out God—Act of vulnerability, act of offering his life for the child's life. Called to be resurrection people

- Be Resurrection people—bring Resurrection to others— (degeneration is not necessarily a sign of God’s promise or judgment but regeneration is)—move from death to life— resurrection not just after die, but from guilt etc—move to hope, courage and freedom
- Be praying people—nothing happens without prayer
- Willing to lay our lives on others—get up close and personal (every miracle different)
- Arms are open as wide as the world—(widow, tax collectors etc)
- Get reality of sin-one miracle not win the day—issue of is of the heart—not politics or program but heart change)

- Chapter 17 Elijah learns obedience, trust, and prayer
- Chapter 18 Public man of authority—learn obedience before take authority in things of God—he is now confident that God will stand by his word
- If the Lord is God—If Baal....Are we divided? Ephesians 4:14, James 1:3— are we tossed by the wind? Where do we place our trust, time, energy—what shapes our mind?
- Not appeal to belief but how behave—called to be different—world is not going to listen to us
- God responds to prayer not provocation or bargaining (Baal— sympathetic magic) James 5:17— if give ourselves to prayer the country will be impressed

What is the author wanting us to learn, what are the themes present

- God's Word must be obeyed (what is God asking of you)
- Obedience may still mean suffering
- In midst of suffering for obedience will find God's provision, that he is not lacking
- God's word can be trusted

- Truth vs. Synthesis
- Prayer vs. Magic
- Prophetic vs. Hysteric

Commands of Chapter 19

- Get up and eat—God treats us as whole people
- Look up—look away from self and on to God—go up to mount and stand before the Lord—2 major causes of depression-unresolved anger and self pity
- God speaks in silence-learn to listen to his him and his word vs. crowding him out with earthquakes and fire—miracles are only good in passing
- Go—return the way you came—link up—new work, new vision, new friends

- Elijah is both overly optimistic and overly pessimistic
- Element of surprise—temptations come when least expect—when we stop looking at God and instead the opposition (place our eyes on the problem vs. God)
- Exhaustion—it is costly to stand for God, we have this treasure in jars of clay
- Fear—lost anchor, gets rid of his servant, he quits—note who is at the center of Elijah’s world (Elijah—note the “I’s” of self pity and self justification)
- We need to see problems in light of who God is—retreat for fresh vision of God.
- Note—God will judge, he will demand accountability, he will punish sin (and yet his justice also seen in Jesus—note where fire fell) So stake life on god’s dependability

¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰ remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

James 5:13–20 (NIV)

- Background of prayer is Spiritual Warfare (domestic intercom or war time walkie talkie?)
- Confidence in prayer is God's Character (best prayers come when our Bibles are open—issue is not praying about God taking part in my plan but in our taking part in God's)
- Motivation for prayer is God's glory (Elijah "I am your servant—not for Elijah's vindication but God's glory)
- Style of prayer is simplicity
- Outcome of prayer is electrifying
- By ordinary people

**Battle against the Triple Alliance—world, flesh and the devil
—call to take responsibility, action, put on, stand ground,
stand firm—be active replacing bad habits with good habits**

- Focus on truth of Jesus
- Keep short accounts
- Get actively involved
- Trust God in difficult times
- Win the battle of the mind
- Soak yourself into the word of God
- Keep praying

- What living for—for your self or to be God’s instrument
- What drives your life, motivates, simplifies, gives meaning
- You were created to last forever
- God...what do you have for me to do today
- Call to become something—like Jesus
- Call to do something—based on spiritual gifts/setting
- God does not have a mission for his church but a church for his mission—we were made for mission—
- What is God wanting me to learn in the midst of my present circumstances—
- Take your eyes off of self/problems and put them onto God and taking God to others

- Commit life daily to the purpose of glorifying Jesus—surrender day to the Lord
- Spend sometime each day meditating on God's word and apply it to your life (Bible is the least read bestseller)
- Get rid of grudges daily—learn to forgive as you have been forgiven
- Do all within your power to resolve family conflicts—pray for creativity
- Have people to pray with and share with (covenant partners)
- Exercise—have daily routines
- Do something nice to one person each week

Servant

- Declare the truth
- Make God visible
- Bless the world—take a genuine interest and show courage
- Transform lives, relationships, culture, society, leadership
- Authenticity, passion, work, generosity, encouragement
grace and purity

- Never really know God unless you get out side of your community and get into deep relationship with others and get to know their experiences
- How find true God—need fire (realize sinner that needs help, humble self before God)
- But...note where the fire came—on to the alter and not the people—on the sacrifice—on Jesus

- God's faithfulness
- battle of sin
- power of God—timing of God
- Elijah—prayer, obedience, fought appropriate battles
- Read about times big events but not small mundane times the 3 years of preparation—the twists, turns, hills, valleys—if we fight it we will not get far
- Pass on leadership—be a mentor
- Ask—God what are you doing—God wants your attention—
- Issue of sin—not self help—but where is your gaze, issue of heart

- Bible teaches us through biography—not what say but do, God has a story and he has called us into it
- Baal—God of rain, provision, fertility—whatever—God sends us into the middle of, the heart of the battle
- Altar—begins with worship (reunification of Israel)
- 3 people—take my life—Moses, Jonah, Elijah—spent—so retreat—need balance
- Pride makes Elijah to optimistic and then to pessimistic—real problem is heart—
- Pride keeps us from being larger picture—understand both sin and grace
- God not need big miracles—need his word
- John the Baptist, Elijah—call judgment and fire down—destroys altar but not people—real judgment on Christ—so we get life

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