

Ephesians 2:8-9



Answers can be found at: <http://www.openthoumineeyes.com/Puzzle/Eph2.htm>

Words to Find:	through	it	of
For	faith	is	works
by	and	the	lest
grace	that	gift	any
are	not	of	man
ye	of	God	should
saved	yourselves	not	boast

God's Will

Max Sidders

I used to pray with puzzled heart,
And oft the tears would flow.
My prayer was very earnest then,
"Help me Thy will to KNOW!"



I later prayed with fearful heart,
Because God's will I knew.

My prayer was much more earnest
then,
"Help me Thy will to DO!"

Today I pray with yielded heart,
To my Father up above.
My prayer is very simple now.
"Help me Thy will to Love!"

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Why Does the Brook of Blessing Run Dry?

Barbara Brinkworth

God's people are truly a "peculiar" people! However, it is not always the right kind of peculiar. When the blessings are flowing, they are on top of the world. They may be grateful enough in the beginning, but soon they begin to take things for granted. If the blessings continue on, it is not long before God's people are feeling that the blessings are their right. If one is not careful, it is very easy to fall into this syndrome.

When a believer gets to this point, God has a variety of ways



for getting their attention. The Bible describes one of these ways in I Kings 17. The man involved

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A Wife's Faith

D. L. Moody

In one of the towns in England, there is a beautiful, little chapel, and a very touching story is told in connection with it. It was built by a man that had a praying wife. He would not listen

to her; would not allow her pastor even to take dinner with them; would not look at the Bible; would not allow religion even to be talked of.

She made up her mind, seeing she could not influence him by her voice, but every day she would pray at twelve o'clock for his salvation. She said nothing to him, but every day at that hour she told the Lord about her husband. At the end of twelve months there was no change in him. She did not give up.

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Why Does the Brook ...

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was Elijah, God's faithful prophet. God had brought a time of drought to Israel because of the wickedness of His people. The drought was to last three and a half years. God had told Elijah to go to the Brook Cherith. There he was to drink the water from the brook, and ravens were to bring food to him twice a day. Elijah obeyed God, and everything went just as God had said it would. That is, it did at first. However, verse seven says, "And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land."

What was Elijah to think? He had been obedient; he was not involved in any sin. He was trusting God. Just what was God trying to tell him? Consider the following lessons that God might possibly have wanted to teach Elijah.

God wanted to remind Elijah of the fact that He has a universal sovereign plan. It is the nature of depraved man to be very self-centered. While Elijah's needs were being met, what about the rest of the Israelites? Did he think about them; pray for them; care at all about what was happening to them? Perhaps as long as God was meeting his needs, he became unconcerned about the needs of others. He might have even for-

gotten that the drought was just one part of God's overall plan to draw His people back to Himself. When the brook ran dry, you can be sure that Elijah began to wonder what was going on with the other people in the area. He may have even asked himself what God was doing in their lives.

The second lesson might have been that God wanted to allow Elijah to learn more about the spiritual source of his blessings. It could be that Elijah had come to depend on the brook and the ravens, rather than on God. Humans in general are much better at walking by sight than they are at walking by faith. Maybe God wanted Elijah to see past the physical blessings to the spiritual source. Sometimes the only way for that to happen is to remove the physical things from the life of the believer. When the blessings are stopped, the believer usually calls quickly on the One who bestowed the blessings in the first place.

Although this story of Elijah takes place in the Old Testament, the next lesson is especially applicable to New Testament believers. When the brook ran dry, Elijah had an opportunity to see God's simultaneous provision. How did this happen? The Scripture tells of a widow woman and her son who were on the verge of starvation. God,

When your will is God's will, you will have your will. — P. Bailey

who definitely has a sense of humor, told Elijah that this woman would be responsible for his sustenance! The woman lived in Zarephath, and Elijah arrived as she was preparing for her last meal. Elijah gave her the exciting news that if she would feed him, that God had promised to take care of her and her son. What a picture this is of the body of believers that is called the local church. As each one meets another's needs, all have their needs met. Only God could conceive of such a perfect plan.

The Scriptures indicate that Elijah saw the sustaining power of God as long as the rain was withheld from the land. There is no mention of his leaving Zarephath until God called to him in the third year of the drought. During the time that he was with the widow woman, he not only saw God's ability to provide food; he also experienced the resurrection power that God alone is able to provide. While Elijah was living in Zarephath, the woman's son died, and God allowed Elijah to bring life back into the young man's body. This miracle could not have been accomplished by Elijah, if he were still at the Brook Cherith. God's timing is always perfect.

I Corinthians 10:11 says, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition ..."

The lessons of I Kings 17 could be of great benefit to the believer today as examples. When the brook of blessings runs dry in your life, remember that it might have happened so that you could:

- Be reminded of God's sovereign plan
- Be allowed to learn more about the spiritual source of blessings
- Be enabled to see God's simultaneous provision
- Be able to prove God's sustaining power to others.

A Wife's Faith

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Six months more went past. Her faith began to waiver, and she asked the Lord, "Will I have to give him up at last? Perhaps when I am dead, He will answer my prayers." When she had gotten to that point, it seemed just as if God had gotten her where He wanted her.

The man came home to dinner one day. His wife was in the dining-room waiting for him, but he did not come in. She waited some time, and finally looked for him all through the house.

At last, she thought of going into the little room where she had prayed so often. There he was, praying at the same bed with agony, where she had prayed for so many months, asking forgiveness for his sins. This is a lesson to the many wives who have infidel husbands. The Lord saw that woman's faith and answered her prayers.

When life becomes all snarled up, offer it to our Lord and let Him untie the knots. — Book of Days for Christians.