

## TRUSTING GOD IN DIFFICULT TIMES

1 Kings 17:8-16

### Background:

During a time of severe drought in Israel, caused by the nation's idolatry under King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, God sent the prophet Elijah to a widow in Zarephath. The widow was facing extreme poverty and preparing for what she thought would be her last meal. Despite her circumstances, she obeyed Elijah's request, and God miraculously provided for her household, demonstrating His faithfulness and provision in difficult times.



### Introduction:

1. Life often brings unexpected challenges that test our faith and trust in God.
2. God's provision is not always what we expect, but He always provides in the right way and at the right time.
3. This lesson will help us see how trusting God through uncertainty leads to His faithful provision and sustaining power.

#### 1. God's Provision In Unexpected Ways (1 Kings 17:8-10)

- a. God's Command: Elijah was sent to Zarephath to be provided for by a widow.
- b. The Widow's Condition: She was preparing for what she thought would be her last meal.
- c. Application: God often provides from unexpected sources; we must Trust His plan.

#### 2. Faith In God's Promises (1 Kings 17:11-14)

- a. Elijah's Request: He asked for water and bread despite the widow's lack.
- b. God's Assurance: The flour and oil would not run out until the drought ended.
- c. Application: Trusting God's promises means acting in faith even when circumstances seem dire.

#### 3. God's Sustaining Power (1 Kings 17:15-16)

- a. The Widow's Obedience: She followed Elijah's instructions despite her fears.
- b. God's Fulfillment: The flour and oil remained, just as God had promised.
- c. Application: God is faithful to sustain those who trust and obey Him.

### Conclusion:

1. God's provision is always sufficient, even when resources seem scarce.
2. Trusting God requires obedience and faith, even when circumstances seem uncertain.
3. Just as God provided for Elijah and the widow, He will provide for us when we put our trust in Him.

### Applications:

1. **Trusting God's Provision In Unexpected Ways:** Life often presents situations where resources seem scarce, and solutions appear impossible. Just as God provided for Elijah through an unlikely source—a poor widow—He can provide for us in ways we might not expect. This teaches us to trust that God can use anyone or anything to meet our needs. Whether it is through a kind gesture, an unexpected opportunity, or a blessing in disguise, we should remain open to God's provision and not limit His power to work in our lives.
2. **Acting In Faith Despite Difficult Circumstances:** The widow at Zarephath faced a dire situation, yet she acted in faith by obeying Elijah's request. This reminds us that faith often requires action before we see the fulfillment of God's promises. In our lives, we may face difficult decisions that challenge our trust in God, such as financial struggles, health concerns, or personal hardships. However, taking steps of obedience—even when it seems illogical—demonstrates our reliance on God's faithfulness. Faith is not passive; it requires us to move forward, trusting in God's provision.

**3. Recognizing God's Sustaining Power:** God's provision did not come all at once but was sustained daily for the widow and Elijah. This reminds us that God often provides what we need for today, not necessarily everything we want for the future. We should learn to rely on Him daily, trusting that He will continue to provide as we go forward. In difficult seasons of life, whether emotionally, financially, or spiritually, we can find comfort in knowing that God is sustaining us one step at a time. Instead of worrying about tomorrow, we should focus on faithfully serving Him today.

**True Or False:**

1. Elijah was sent to a wealthy family in Zarephath who would provide his needs.
2. The widow had an abundance of food when Elijah arrived.
3. God promised that the flour and oil would last until the drought ended.
4. The widow hesitated and refused to follow Elijah's instructions.
5. God's provision demonstrated His faithfulness to those who trust and obey Him.

**Questions:**

1. What did God command Elijah to do when the brook dried up?
2. How did the widow respond to Elijah's initial request for water and bread?
3. What promise did God make regarding the widow's flour and oil?
4. How did the widow demonstrate her faith in God's word?
5. What lesson can we learn about trusting God in difficult circumstances?

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