

Faith Under Fire – “Gooley Carmal”

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Intro:

A. The first part of Hebrews 11:6

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

And it is impossible to please God without faith.

1. We realize according to Hebrews when we don't have faith we can't please God.
2. He loves when His people believe that the impossible can happen through their possible God.
3. What happens when you're **FAITH IS UNDER FIRE** and your emotions go crazy.

ILL: 1 Kings 18 (STORY OF ELIJAH AT MT CARMAL) Israelites swaying the fence

COCKY FAITH – HE BEGAN TO TAUNT THEM

1 Kings 18:27-28 (NLT)

About noontime Elijah began mocking them. “You'll have to shout louder,” he scoffed, “for surely he is a god! Perhaps he is daydreaming, or is relieving himself. Or maybe he is away on a trip, or is asleep and needs to be wakened!”

THEY STARTED CUTTING THEMSELVES AND YELLING LOUDER TO THE BAAL GOD

ELIJAH CALLS FIRE DOWN FROM HEAVEN HAS A GREAT VICTORY

RIGHT AFTER THE ELIJAH'S VICTORY HIS FAITH GOES SOUTH

WE HAVE A REPORTER COVERING THE STORY IN JERUSALEM

VIDEO – Reporter and Elijah

CUE – The second time Pastor calls for Doug

B. From this **STORY** we find that Elijah emotions got the best of him.

1. Our **FAITH COMES UNDER FIRE** when our emotions get out of control.
2. When we start to experience these types of emotions they = **DEPRESSION**

FEAR - “Elijah was afraid and ran for his life....” 1 Kings 19:3 NIV

SUICIDAL TENDENCIES– “I have had enough, LORD,’ he said. ‘Take my life.... 1 Kings 19:4

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EXCESSIVE TIREDNESS –Exhausted, he fell asleep.... 1 Kings 19:5 (MSG)

REJECTION – "I've been working my heart out for the God-of-the-Angel-Armies," said Elijah. "The people of Israel have abandoned your covenant, destroyed the places of worship, and murdered your prophets. I'm the only one left, and now they're trying to kill me." 1 Kings 19:10 (MSG)

3. All these emotions can only EQUAL one thing - **DEPRESSION**

4. AND he experienced this depression for a long time – nearly 2 months.

C. These emotions can come to us because of many different reasons.

1. But one thing we all can agree with when these emotions grab a hold of us and are FAITH IS UNDER FIRE we're not much good to anybody especially God.

2. And that's exactly what was happening with Elijah and his faith.

D. So what did God do about Elijah condition:

1. **GOD DIDN'T SAY:** “Well sorry Elijah - you have a chemical imbalance, and Depression pills hasn't been invented yet – so I can't help you!”

2. I want you to notice what God did to heal Elijah

GOD SENT HIM TO CHURCH

A. God sent him to Mt. Horeb, the Mt. Of God (where the Law given to Moses).

1. Church is one of the best places to deal with Depression. Church is the place where we listen to each other and help one another.

Galatians 6:2 (MSG)

Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law.

ILL: Back in 1999 Duke University conducted a study of nearly 4000 older adults. One of their conclusions: "Attendance at a house of worship is related to lower rates of depression and anxiety."

2. But church doesn't stop with being in a house of worship... Time alone with God in prayer and Bible Study is a powerful anti-depressant.

GOD HAD ELIJAH TELL HIM WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS

A. God asked Elijah: “What are you doing here, Elijah?” (I Kings 19:13)

1. Didn't God know? Of course He knew, He'd sent Elijah to this mountain.
2. But Elijah needed to vocalize what was wrong in his life. Elijah needed to explain what HE thought the problem was.
3. And once Elijah verbalized his belief of what was wrong, then...

GOD DEALT WITH ELIJAH'S FALSE BELIEF

A. False beliefs, the false ideas that were fueling Elijah's depression.

1. Jesus said, **“The truth shall set you free.”**
2. Our lives are built around what we think is true about life. And if the foundations of that reasoning are based on wrong information or impressions, the result can be devastating.
3. Elijah's false belief is found in this verse:

1 Kings 19:14 (MSG)

Elijah said it again, "I've been working my heart out for God, the God-of-the-Angel-Armies, because the people of Israel have abandoned your covenant, destroyed your places of worship, and murdered your prophets. I'm the only one left, and now they're trying to kill me."

4. Hidden in the midst of that statement was this accusation:
"I've been beating my head against the wall serving you Lord. And everything seems to just be falling apart around me... What have you been doing God???"
5. And so, God corrects Elijah's thinking. He tells him "Elijah – you're not the only one left"
6. "I have seven thousand in Israel whose knees have not bowed down to Baal.
7. In other words, don't worry about it Elijah... I've got it all under control.

GOD GAVE ELIJAH SOMETHING TO DO

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1. But God basically tells him: “Get back to work. I’ve got a job for you to do... make yourself useful”
2. The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint the king over Aram. Also, anoint the king over Israel, and anoint Elisha ... to succeed you as prophet.

ILL: During a lecture on mental health someone once asked Dr. Carl Menninger: "What would you advise a person to do if that person felt a nervous breakdown coming on?" Most people thought he would say, "Go see a psychiatrist immediately," but he didn't. Much to everyone's astonishment, Dr. Menninger replied, "Lock up your house, go across the railroad tracks, find somebody in need, and help that person." To overcome discouragement, "Don't focus on yourself, get involved in the lives of other people."