

OUTLINE • 11.3

- VI. Many Christians let their feelings control how they act instead of letting faith steer them.
- A. Seeing God's will fulfilled in your life means learning to obey Him no matter how you feel.
 - B. Trust God and follow His leading.
 - C. He will never lead you to do something you can't do or something that isn't in your best interest.
 - D. You can always do what God is asking you to do—you may lack the motivation, but you *can* do it if you really want to.
 - E. This modern culture is always trying to shift the blame onto someone else or some exterior circumstance—anything other than accepting responsibility themselves.
 - F. To fulfill God's will, you have to accept responsibility in your life.
 - G. You are a person created in the image of God; therefore, you are responsible for your actions.
 - H. God commanded believers: "*Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice*" (Phil. 4:4).
 - I. God would be unjust to command you to "*rejoice in the Lord always*" if it wasn't possible.
 - J. You don't have to feel joy to rejoice in the Lord, because you always have joy in your spirit, whether you can feel it or not (Gal. 5:22).
 - i. You can do what God tells you to do regardless of how you feel.
 - ii. Rejoicing is like putting a bucket down into the well of life in your spirit and drawing out the fullness of God.
 - K. Emotions should be like the caboose on a train—going wherever the train goes—but not determining anything.

- VII. Elijah received a word from God and acted on it.

*And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab,
As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor
rain these years, but according to my word.*

1 KINGS 17:1

- A. He could have focused on the dangers to himself, but instead, he was obedient to the Lord—he received a word from God and *acted* on it.
- B. Elijah became the most dominant man in the entire nation because he received direction from God and acted on it.

C. Immediately after Elijah prophesied the drought, God gave him further direction:

Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. [4] And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. [5] So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD.

1 KINGS 17:3-5A

- D. God gave Elijah a promise of protection, but notice that the promise to provide for Elijah didn't come until *after* he obeyed His first instruction.
- E. This is why so many people don't fulfill God's will for their lives—God reveals His will, but people start trying to rationalize how everything is going to work out before they act on what He has told them to do.
- F. God sent Elijah's provision *there*—not where Elijah was but where God told him to go.
- i. Also, notice that God had already commanded the provision.
 - ii. Likewise, God doesn't send your provision to *you*; He sends your provision to where He told you to *go*.
 - iii. You can't make following God's leading conditional upon seeing His provision first.
 - iv. One reason you might not be seeing God's provision in your life is because you are too much *here* and not enough *there*.
- G. Many born-again, Spirit-filled believers look at their lives and only see problems—they don't understand that they have the same power on the inside of them that raised Jesus Christ from the dead (Eph. 1:18-20).
- H. *God's power isn't out in heaven someplace—it's on the inside of you.*
- I. Instead of looking for a “fresh” word from God to fix your problem, act on the direction He has already given you in Scripture.
- J. Every time you hear a word from God but fail to obey it, your heart becomes hardened.
- K. Even though your heart will become hardened, God will never stop speaking to you (John 10:27).
- L. Being obedient doesn't make God love you more; failing to obey doesn't make Him love you less—but God can't lead and direct you into His blessings and fulfillment without your cooperation.
- M. God has given you everything you need to live a victorious life and see His will fulfilled in your life (2 Pet. 1:3-4)—you simply need to act on His Word and His leading.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS • 11.3

24. Does seeing God's will fulfilled in your life mean learning to obey Him no matter what?

25. He will never lead you to do something you can't do or something that isn't in your

- _____.
- A. Best interest
 - B. Game plan
 - C. Life goals
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

26. Discussion question: Why or why not Do you agree with the statement "You can always do what God is asking you to do—you may lack the motivation, but you *can* do it if you really want to"?

27. What did God command believers in Philippians 4:4?

28. Discussion question: What things in your life have you allowed to be determined by your emotions? Do you think any changes need to be made in those areas?

29. How did Elijah become the most dominant man in the entire nation?

30. Where did God send Elijah's provision?

31. Can you make following God's leading conditional upon seeing His provision first?

32. Discussion question: Do you think the idea that "one reason you might not be seeing God's provision in your life is because you are too much *here* and not enough *there*" applies to your life? If so, how?

33. True or False: Even though your heart will become hardened, God will never stop speaking to you (John 10:27).

SCRIPTURES • 11.3

PHILIPPIANS 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

JOHN 16:33

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

GALATIANS 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.

1 KINGS 17:1

And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

1 KINGS 18:10

As the LORD thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not.

1 KINGS 17:3-5

Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. [4] And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. [5] So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

EPHESIANS 1:18-20

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, [19] And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, [20] Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.

ISAIAH 28:11-12

For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. [12] To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

JOHN 10:27

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

2 PETER 1:3-4

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: [4] Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.