

Just Like Us

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are and he prayed...

James 5:17

It is amazing that in a world with over 7 billion people there are no two people exactly alike. God has stamped individuality on all of mankind. Because we were all created in the image of God, in spite of all our differences, we are still very much alike. Men and women who have gained high levels of recognition through their own accomplishments, or sometimes just by being born into a prestigious family, can frequently be viewed as exceptional or larger than life.

Unfortunately, this can also happen when we look at some of the great men and women of faith in the Bible. For example, when we read about Abraham, Moses, Daniel, and many others, we may see them as having unwavering faith to conquer all. This can be discouraging as we face the battles and difficulties in our own lives if we have misled ourselves to think that their level of faith eliminated doubts and fears from their lives, or that they had no weakness of the flesh. But today's verse reminds us that Biblical characters were very much like you and me. Elijah stands out as one of the great prophets in the Old Testament. There is more information about his life than most of the other prophets. His boldness to confront the false prophets of Baal, the accounts of God using him to display divine miracles, and even his extraordinary departure from this world make him stand out as a great man of God. But James clearly states that Elijah was subject to like passions as we are. He had times of great faith, yet there were also times of fear and depression. The stark phrase - "And he prayed"- highlights his internal dependency on the Lord to offset his human deficiencies so that he could be a useful instrument in God's hand.

As we continue our journey of faith to fulfill God's purpose today, may we like Elijah be reminded that if we can see beyond the frailties of our flesh there is a vast reservoir of strength when we pray to our great God.

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