

Elijah and the struggles of faith

Have you read the account of Elijah in the Old Testament of the Bible? The accounts of Elijah are primarily shared in 1st and 2nd Kings.

Elijah is a prophet who did amazing things and showed amazing courage. Elijah depended upon God to provide continuous food for a widow and her son and to raise her son from the dead. Elijah confronted the King Ahab of Israel for worshipping the pagan god Baal. Elijah confronted over 450 prophets and priest of Baal to the death.

Elijah also ran for cover for fear of Queen Jezebel after reading a threatening note from her.

Do you sense a contradiction?

How can the same person show such incredible faith relying upon God to provide for the widow and her son, and show tremendous courage confronting pagans, only to show such cowardice of one person?

How?

How can one go from depending upon God, listening to God, obeying God to suddenly fearing and running out of fear and even running from God?

It sounds amazing, incredible, and practical.

How many times have you gone from feeling close to God, being in God's will in worship and in your life, knowing that you are right where God wants you to suddenly feeling empty? Have you gone from mountain experiences with God to emptiness when you feel apart or distant from God?

I know I have. I have had times in my life where I knew God was right there beside me. I knew that I was doing what God wanted and I was right where God wanted me. I have also had times where I felt completely apart from God.

What was the difference? The difference was me. God had not changed. God had not moved away. God did not leave.

Psalm 139 teaches us that you cannot be out of God's presence. Jonah learned that he could not go from God even when he tried.

Please know that no matter what you feel, God does not and will not ever leave you. Live into the knowledge that God is always with you regardless of what you may or may not feel. God is always with you. You are not alone, for God is with you.

It is a lesson that I am learning. God is always with me and God is always with you.

God will be with us at our Praise in the Park on Sunday August 30 at Pioneer Park at 10am. All are welcome to worship and to receive communion.

Blessings,
Fr. Steve+