

*And he went up, and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And Elijah said, "Go again seven times." And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, "Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand"*

*1 Kings 18:43-44*

"Look toward the sea..." Elijah had said. Look toward the distant waters. Look toward the place where both torrential downpours and soft rains originate. Look toward hope. But the servant saw nothing. The skies having been barren for three and a half years showed no signs of change. How often in prayer do we hear "look" but yet eyes of flesh see only the same problems that drove us to our knees to begin with?

Building on our faith, we continue to pray. It is not because of, or in spite of, the weather report. We continue to pray because of the sound we have heard...an abundant rain is on the way. We realign our prayers with the Kingdom mission, and we press on. We keep on praying because we know with certainty this is what the Father desires to bring to pass...birthed in the earth through ceaseless prayer.

We are like the widow in Chapter 18 of Luke's Gospel. She continued to plead her case even when no one would listen. She knew her case was just. She believed her persistence could persuade even a corrupt judge. And so she continued to wear down the judge with her continual complaint until a favorable ruling was reached...something that would have been a cultural abnormality.

Jesus said that our Father is much more attentive to the prayers of His children than the unjust judge was to the request of the widow. Christ told the story to remind us to pray always and not give up. Then He asked this one question, "Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). In this passage, Christ equated our faith with continual prayers...prayers that continue until the case is won!

Seven times Elijah prayed...seven times the servant looked. Finally, one small cloud began to move in. Even in smallness, that one cloud was like the tip of an iceberg. The prayers were answered. The rain was on its way.

*And so we pray:*

*Heavenly Father...Righteous Judge... We come before You asking for a deluge of Your favor over our land. We have been in drought for so long, the generation rising up has never known the days of prosperity we once lived in. Please hear our case and send Your mercy!*

*Add our prayers to the countless prayers of others throughout our region. Encourage us all to continue in prayer and not lose heart! You hear, and have heard, every prayer lifted up for us! Your promise is coming!*

*We have heard the sound, and now we expect to see the cloud. We expect Your blessing to rain down so deep that we will be carried by the waves of Your presence!*

*In Jesus name we pray, and continue to pray...AMEN*