

GENESIS WORSHIP CENTER

"A Place of New Beginnings"



Dear Friend:

Have you ever felt so tired, discouraged, or fearful that you wished God would either instantly take away your troubles or call you home to heaven? If you have, you're not alone. Through the centuries, many of God's people have experienced such seasons of despair including the prophet Elijah.

In 1 Kings chapter 18 we see Elijah on Mount Carmel orchestrating a showdown between Jehovah and the false god Baal. Once it was proven that Baal did not exist, Elijah asked God to demonstrate his power to Ahab, Jezebel, and hundreds of false prophets. God answered his prayer powerfully as he sent fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice Elijah had set up. Now you'd think after such an incredible experience, Elijah would be full of faith, joy, and confidence. But the next chapter reveals a dejected prophet running for

his life because of the threats of Jezebel. Elijah even pleaded with God, "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors" (1 Kings 19:4).

Sometimes our lives follow the same pattern of great victories followed by moments or seasons of discouragement, frustration, and despair. But even at such times God is faithful, and if you'll trust Him in your low seasons, He'll do for you the three things He did for Elijah:

- 1. God will renew your strength** (1 Kings 19:5-8). Just as God blessed Elijah with food, rest, and new energy to continue his journey, He'll meet you at the point of your greatest needs. Always remember that His grace is sufficient to get you through every difficult time you face.
- 2. God will refocus your thinking** (vs. 18). Elijah felt that he was the

only person left in Israel who was faithfully following the Lord, but God told him that there were thousands of others. You may feel alone sometimes, but you're not!

- 3. God will reaffirm your assignment** (vs. 15-16). God didn't take Elijah to heaven because He wasn't through with him yet, and He's not through with you either! So after you come out of the valley, He's going to use you to touch other lives with his love and grace.

In the words of the theme song from the old Mary Tyler Moore Show, "You're gonna make it after all."

Be encouraged.

Yours for the Kingdom

Pastor George Matthews,
MBA, CPE., M. Div.

If you would like to know more information about Genesis Worship Center or how you can use your gifts to help this ministry, please e-mail us at pastor@genesishorshipcenter.com or call (510) 633-8111.

www.genesishorshipcenter.com

One Church, Two Locations

Headquarters/Mailing:

2708 Ritchie Street, Oakland, CA. 94605

New Worship Service Location:

601 E. 14th Street, San Leandro, CA 94577

Worship Services and Bible Study will be held at the San Leandro Campus beginning January 6, 2019.

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JESUS CAN HEAL YOU EVERYWHERE YOU HURT