

LIFE OF ELIJAH: A study by Bill Jones
“The Showdown on Mount Carmel”

1 Kings 18:16-40

I. When we are out of God’s will, following our own self-will, we rationalize and point fingers.

(1 Kings 18:17, Genesis 3:12-13, 16:1-5, Exodus 32:1-4,21-24, Deut. 11:13-17, 28:1-4,12,15-18,22-24, 1 Samuel 15:3,9,13-15, 2 Samuel 11-12, Psalm 139:23-24, Proverbs 14:34, Jeremiah 17:9-10, Matthew 7:1-5, 27:24,26, Romans 2:1, Heb. 4:12)

II. When we are in the will of God we are humble, content, confident, and invincible.

(1 Kings 18:18, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Philippians 4:12-13, 1 Peter 5:5-9)

III. Living for both the world and God is nothing more than a subtle form of idolatry.

(1 Kings 18:21, Genesis 19:15-26, Exodus 20:3, 32:26, Joshua 24:15-16, Judges 2:10-13, Matthew 6:24,33-34, 12:30, 2 Corinthians 6:14, 1 John 2:15, Revelation 3:15-16)

IV. God is full of grace, mercy and long suffering, but His judgment eventually comes.

(1 Kings 18:21, Isaiah 45:22, Luke 13:6-9, Acts 5:1-11, 17:30-31, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Hebrews 9:27-28, 2 Peter 3:9-10)

V. All substitutes for God will fail you in the end.

(1 Kings 18:25-29, Matthew 6:19-21,24, 19:16-30, 1 Corinthians 8:4, 1 John 5:21)

VI. God exposes our sin and calls us to repentance.

(1 Kings 18:30-32,39, Matthew 3:1-2, Luke 13:1-9, 15:7, Acts 2:38, James 5:16, 1 John 1:8-10)

VII. If we want God’s power in our lives we must spend dedicated, consistent time in His word seeking His will, instead of looking for quick answers.

(1 Kings 18:30-31, Joshua 1:7-9, Psalm 1:2-3, 77:12, 119:97-104, Proverbs 3:5-6, Romans 12:1-2, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, James 4:2-3)

VIII. When we want God’s power, prayer is our greatest and most effective resource.

(1 Kings 18:36-38, Matthew 21:22, Mark 11:24, James 5:16-18, 1 John 5:14-15)

IX. We must eliminate all rivals to God in our lives.

(1 Kings 18:40, Deuteronomy 4:23-24, 13:1-18, 17:2-7, Matthew 6:24,33, 12:30, Luke 14:33)

X. A life totally committed to God cannot help but powerfully impact the world.

(1 Kings 18:39, Luke 15:7)

Is anything greater than the power of God?

What does this fact mean to us today, in the particular challenges and trials we face at this moment?

What would be a good contemporary definition of idolatry? What forms does idolatry take today?

Can we expect miracles in our day?

What are some examples of the differences between praying for our own will versus praying for God's will? How would praying for God's will change our prayers? How would praying for God's will change our perspectives?

What are some things that were part of Elijah's long-term preparation for his prayer and faith and experience on Mount Carmel?

Compare 1 Kings 18 with Isaiah 40. What similarities or commonalities do you find?