

ILL—Elijah Doesn't Get It—**1KN 19.13-14** (Elijah comes out; God asks why he's there, again; repeats the same answer) His **strength has been renewed**, but when he recognizes God's **power** in His *low whisper*, he still is concerned and uncertain. So, God then **shatters his expectations**.

1KN 19.15-17 ~ *And the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazeel to be king over Syria. ¹⁶ And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. ¹⁷ And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazeel shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."*

EX: God's answer is, **"Yep; I get it. You're afraid. Suck it up. Go. You've got work to do."** This isn't exactly the encouragement we expect. But sometimes, we just need to have our **expectations shattered**—sometimes, we just need to hear, **"Go!"** **"Trust me!"**

1KN 19.18 ~ *Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."*

AP: **"No one wants to hear. No one cares. There's no point."** We say all this all the time. And God's answer is, **"Go". "Trust me!"**

MT 28.19-20 ~ *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

CONCLUSION

ILL—**Watching Dog When Sleeping** (legs kicking; jowls twitching; yipping quietly) Somewhere behind all the mini jackets and jacked-up interbreeding, there lurks within fido the DNA of a wolf—a beast waiting to wake up and to break out. Even after all these years of domestication, if you allow your dog to run loose, it will naturally begin to restore those old habits of the wolf—reencountering the strength that it thought lost.

Elijah had seemingly lost his own strength to his own fear. And in his fleeing from Jezebel, we see our own **faith reflected**—often fearful and often failing. But just as God was able to **restore** Elijah's **faith**, He can **restore ours**, as well: by **renewing our strength, revealing His power**, and **shattering our expectations**. After this life-changing event, Elijah didn't just return to the ministry, he expanded it:

1KN 19.19-21 ~ *So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. ²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" ²¹ And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.*

Following this, Elijah was renewed—and he spent the next several years doing more good for the work for God. His faith was restored and renewed, and he got back to work. Today, from time to time, we all need the same: we find our own faith in need of restoration and renewal. And God will provide for that! But when He does, we're called to return to the work, just like Elijah was.

MT 24.45-47 ~ *"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions."*

INVITATION

#654 [Exp-OTH]
07/31/2025

De-Extinction

1KN 18.20-19.1-21

PC Pchd

QUESTION: How do we awaken our strength, within?

TRN TO 1KN 18

INTRODUCTION

ILL—**My Dogs' Attitudes** (Misty: a deaf and blind; Daisy: a gentle lady; Teddy: closest to a wolf) He howls, he hunts, and he intimidates—he's also half-pug, half Jack Russell Terrier. It's funny seeing this little dog bossing around a Shepherd.

ILL—**Dog Origin** (a complicated and confusing family tree; wolves, dogs, jackals, and foxes are all of the same "Family" or "Kind"; which means, they can breed together) It also means that somewhere in the family tree of our lap dogs is the beating heart of something wild and powerful.

It's a funny thing to think about when we see our dogs—whatever their breed—and realize that just a few generations ago, they were wild wolves. And now, the most hunting they do is for flies and squirrels. Yet, still, buried within each one of them is the DNA of a hunter—of a wolf.

BACKGROUND

Elijah is widely considered one of the greatest prophets of the Bible. His reputation was so great that, when informing John's father, Zechariah, of the mission of his son as the forerunner of the Messiah, the angel of the Lord said he would come *"in the spirit and power of Elijah"* (**LK 1.17a**)

But while Elijah's faith was great, he was a man. And as a man, he would have moments of weakness along with moments of greatness. Just like with all of us. But within him was the DNA of something greater—something stronger.

ANIMALS/Dire Wolves/Described

The wolves that have survived today are strong, but they are likely nothing like the Dire Wolf—to say nothing of the original *Canidae* that had likely joined Noah and his family on the ark. Over the millennia, they've domesticated and weakened—to the point where their ancestors find themselves in fashionista's purses rather than the plains of America.

Today, we often find ourselves feeling weak and defeated—far from our potential as soldiers and servants of God. But God has a way of awakening the wolf—of bringing out the strength from even the weakest of men and women! And as we come to **1KN 19**, we'll see that God would use His wisdom and power to awaken the wolf in Elijah. And if it worked with Elijah, it can work with us, as well!

BD1: Our Faith Reflected – 1KN 18-19.4

B.ILL—**The Challenge to the Prophets of Baal**—**1KN 18.20-22** (Elijah goes to the prophets of King Ahab of Israel and presents a challenge) *Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it. ²⁴ And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, he is God."* And all the people answered, *"It is well spoken."* (**1KN 18.23-24**)

B.ILL—**The Prophets Fail**—**1KN 18.25-28** (prepare it, call from morning to noon; limp around the altar, cut themselves with swords and lances; Elijah famously mocks them: **"Where's Baal? Is he in the bathroom?"**) *And as midday passed, they raved on*

until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention. (1KN 18.29)

B.ILL—Elijah Succeeds—1KN 18.30-38 (engages hard mode; soaks the wood three times; prays to God, and fire of the Lord burns the offering, wood, stones, dust, and water) *And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God.”*⁴⁰ *And Elijah said to them, “Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape.” And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there. (1KN 18.39-40)*

This story has been told and retold in churches all over the world for millennia! In one 24 hour period, all 450 prophets of Baal were defeated, and their wicked king had been made a fool. But, the story doesn’t end in **1KN 18**. In the next chapter, we see what happens when the king went to the real power behind the throne: his wife, Jezebel.

1KN 19.1-2 ~ *Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.*² *Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.”*

You’d think that, after something as amazing as this, Jezebel would have finally found some humility. But faced with the rage of the power behind the throne, Elijah *was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.*⁴ *But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, “It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.” (1KN 19.3-4)*

Maybe Elijah thought the same: after such an amazing show of power, Israel would convert. But instead, the opposite happened: they hardened their heart and turned against the prophet. And Elijah grabbed defeat from the jaws of victory—he ran. **Why?**

AP: That’s one of the most important questions we can ask. For we copy it regularly. We have in our hands the inspired Word of God. We possess the gift of eternal life! And when faced with opposition—or even the threat of opposition—we cower, hide, and flee. In the frightened prophet, we see **our faith reflected**. Ultimately, his failure came from assuming he wasn’t good enough: *I am no better than my fathers.*” (1KN 19.4b)

God didn’t ask him to be **“better than his fathers”** or do something no one else had ever done. He simply expected him to preach, to teach, and to proclaim. And the same is true for us today. God doesn’t call us to be the next Marshal Keeble, Batsell Barret Baxter, Freed or Hardeman. He simply calls us to preach, to teach, and to proclaim.

1PT 2.13-17 ~ *Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?*¹⁴ *But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,*¹⁵ *but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,*¹⁶ *having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.*¹⁷ *For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.*

BD2: Our Faith Restored – 1KN 19.5-21

ANIMALS/Dire Wolves/Colossal Biosciences Dire Wolf Project

I can’t help but think of **Jurassic Park**: for those who aren’t familiar with the series, let’s just say that all that genetic tinkering wasn’t exactly the best idea and things didn’t turn out so well for InGen’s stock—to say nothing of the health of their scientists.

This project is one of the best examples of a new concept: one of **“de-extinction”**—using scientific methods to help restore species that were otherwise extinct. It’s a controversial concept—and not just for fears of dinosaurs breaking through fences. Some question if it’s even possible. But while the case can be made that Romulus, Remus, and

Khaleesi aren’t actually **“restored”** Dire Wolves, we’ll see in the rest of **1KN 19** that God is able to **“restore”** the faith of Elijah. And the same methods He uses for him are the ones He uses for us, today, if we let Him!

Our Faith Restored...With Strength Renewed (1KN 19.5-8)

1KN 19.5-8 ~ *And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, “Arise and eat.”*⁶ *And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again.*⁷ *And the angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, “Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you.”*⁸ *And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.*

EX: The first thing God does to restore the faith of Elijah is send an angel not with a message of judgment or grace, but with a couple of fresh meals—and those meals allowed Elijah to survive for forty days and forty nights as he journeyed to Horeb.

AP: God starts in **restoring the faith** of Elijah by **renewing his strength**. He knows what Elijah is made of—that he’s broken and tired and needs renewal. So the first thing He does is gives him a great meal and a good time of rest. Sometimes, we need that time of rest—strength, and recovery. We come back from vacation and a good nap ready to go—strengthened again to the working! Sometimes, our own bodies force us to rest—through sickness and exhaustion. And after that time of rest, again, we’re ready to get back to it. This shouldn’t surprise us: for God knows how we work and what we need!

PS 103.13-14 ~ *As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.*¹⁴ *For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.*

As a reminder, the rest doesn’t last forever. The food isn’t provided forever. **How does Elijah react to that rest?** His strength is renewed, and he gets to walking! That is the natural reaction of God’s servant to God’s restoration.

Our Faith Restored...His Power Revealed (1KN 19.9-12)

ILL—Elijah in the Cave—1KN 19.9-10 (comes to Hebron, rests in a cave; God finally comes to him; left servant in Beersheba; left mission in Israel; 200 miles to Hebron/Mt. Sinai) *“What are you doing here, Elijah?” “I’ve done all you asked, and the people are seeking to kill me—the last of your faithful!”*

1KN 19.11-12 ~ *And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.*¹² *And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.*

EX: As Elijah stands on the mount, the wind comes and tears up the mountains and rocks. Before he could get used to that, the earth begins to shake below his feet. Then, a fire comes—tearing through the atmosphere. And all of this **power**—all of this majesty—this was just the things that *touched* the presence of the Lord. God had used wind, earthquakes, and fire to demonstrate His power before. But when He came, at last, before Elijah, it wasn’t in each of these great and powerful things: it was in that *sound of a low whisper*. It was in the power of the *logos*—the Word that His **power was revealed**.

AP: Elijah thought it was his mighty works that would result in people’s response and salvation. But God showed through this mighty work that **faith is restored** when **God’s true power is revealed**—not through mighty works and wonders, but through the simple power of the Word of God. And Brethren, this is still true today. It’s not through the mighty deeds and works we do that souls are reached and people saved: but through the *sound of a low whisper*—through the mighty presence of the Word of God.

IS 40.8 ~ *The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.*

Our Faith Restored...Our Expectations Shattered (1KN 19.13-1