

Summer at Highlands

Is It Worth It to Have Hope? | Pastor Robbie Gaines | July 18, 2021

Big Idea

Because we serve the one true God who rules and reigns over the universe, yet is also loving and present in the darkest of situations, **it is always worth it to have hope!**

Let's Talk

1. Trust - The people of Israel placed their trust in the wrong god, Baal, and worshipped idols, while also claiming to follow the Lord. God will not accept this type of so-called "worship" and desires whole-hearted devotion. Our "idols" look much different in our world today (money, pleasure, self-promotion, etc.), but just like the false gods in Israel, these "gods" will let us down.

- **Read 1 Kings 18:21a** *"Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, 'How much longer will you waver, hobbling between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!'"* Where are you placing your trust? In your own abilities, in someone or something else, or in the one true God?
- The Israelites experienced a three-and-a-half year drought to teach them that their so-called "god" was not worthy of their trust. What consequences have you experienced when you trusted in something other than God?

2. Prayer - We can pray continually to God, at all times and in all places, having faith that He is enough and that He hears our humble cries. Like the persistent widow in Luke 18, God is pleased when we pray and do not lose heart.

- Pastor Robbie explained that sometimes you have to "pray what you've got". What do you have to lay before the Lord today?
- **Read James 4:2b - 3.** *"Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure."* What is the key to receiving what we ask?
- Our faith is meant to grow. As we look back on God's faithfulness, our faith grows! How has God been faithful to you and answered prayers in the past?
- **Read 1 Kings 18:37** *"O Lord, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God and that you have brought them back to yourself."* Elijah cried out in desperation to God, wanting the people to know that He is God and turn their hearts back to Him. Who is God leading you to pray for today?

Reflect & Respond

- Choose today to trust and hope in God alone to provide what you need.
- Pray "what you've got" today, trusting the Lord with your deepest needs. If you feel comfortable, share this with a friend who can be praying with you.
- Continually think upon the Lord this week, lifting your heart and requests up to Him. Be mindful of His presence with you in all places and at all times.
- In faith, step out and do the next thing God has called you to do.