

# BACK TO THE FUTURE

## A SOLEMN REMINDER

James 5:13-18...Continued from last Sunday



**INTRODUCTION:** It goes without saying that **Elijah was an eminent prophet**... He raised the widow's dead son to life - He obtained fire from Heaven against the prophets of Baal - He was fed by ravens - He went forty days on the strength of one meal - He passed over Jordan on dry ground - he was translated into heaven in a fiery chariot - He visibly appeared in our Lord's transfiguration in Matthew's Gospel...BUT as we saw last week from James 5:17, "*ELIJAH WAS A MAN WITH A NATURE LIKE OURS...*" **Elijah was an ordinary man** - he experienced suffering and afflictions - his body was subject to the same weaknesses and infirmities of all men - he went through turmoil of mind and heart and fought with inward passions - He knew moral failings and sin - He understood cowardice, fear and depression, so much so that he cried out to God to take his life. In spite of his highs and his lows James tells us that **Elijah prayed earnestly**...literally he "prayed in prayer" - a fervency of spirit accompanied his praying. Last week we saw that prayer is a ministry of **Ordinary** - **Obedient** - and **Observant** people. Today in the time remaining we want to briefly look at three other aspects of prayer.

### 1. THE P EOPLE OF PRAYER

#### PRAYER IS THE MINISTRY OF...

A. ORDINARY PEOPLE..."*Elijah was a man with a nature like ours*"

B. OBEDIENT PEOPLE..."*so he went and did according to the Word of the LORD*"...1 Kings 17:5

C. OBSERVANT PEOPLE..."*You and your father's house have not followed the commandments of the LORD, you have followed after Baal.*"

### 2. THE R \_\_\_\_\_ OF PRAYER

### 3. THE A \_\_\_\_\_ OF PRAYER

### 4. THE Y \_\_\_\_\_ OF PRAYER