

## WHEN YOU PRAY

Pray Big, Confidently, and Consistently  
March 22, 2026

### Message Summary.

Life is often lived in the “not yet”—the space between what we hope for and what we see. Through Elijah, we learn to pray big, pray with confidence, and pray consistently as we wait on God to move. Even when answers don’t come right away, God is still working.

### Key Scripture Summaries.

**1 Kings 18:41–46** | Elijah prays for rain after a long drought. Even when nothing seems to be happening, he continues to pray until God responds. This shows us the power of persistent prayer.

**James 5:16–18** | Elijah was a human just like us, yet his prayers were powerful and effective because God was working through him. This reminds us that our prayers matter.

**Hebrews 4:16** | Because of Jesus, we can approach God with confidence, knowing He hears us and gives us grace in our time of need.

### Start Talking.

1. What is something you’ve had to wait a long time for?
2. What usually makes waiting difficult for you?
3. When you hear the phrase “not yet,” what emotions come to mind?

### Start Thinking.

- The sermon described life as living in the “Now and Not Yet.” Why do you think God allows us to live in that tension?
- Elijah had seen God do incredible miracles, yet he still had to wait for the rain. What does that teach us about faith and timing?
- From the sermon: “Big prayers happen when we realize only God can do what we are asking.” What makes it hard to pray big prayers?
- James says Elijah was “a human being just like us.” Why is that important for how we view prayer?
- Elijah kept praying even when nothing was happening. Why do you think persistence in prayer is so difficult?

- The sermon mentioned that prayer is not just about getting answers, but about who we are becoming. What do you think that means?

### Start Sharing.

1. What is one “not yet” area in your life right now? (ex: relationships, health, direction, family, faith)
2. Share about a time when you had to wait on God. What did that experience teach you?
3. Is it easier for you to pray big, confidently, or consistently? Why?
4. Have you ever almost given up praying for something—but later saw God move? What happened?
5. What is one prayer you’ve been hesitant to pray because it feels too big or impossible?

### Start Praying.

*Father, we trust You even in the “not yet.” When we don’t see answers, help us keep praying. Give us bold faith to pray big, confidence to come to You, and endurance to keep going. Shape us as we wait, and remind us that You are always working. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

### Start Doing.

Choose one or two to practice this week:

- Pray Big | Write down one prayer that only God can answer and begin praying for it daily.
- Pray Consistently | Set aside 5 intentional minutes each day to stop and pray. Also look for moments throughout your day to talk to God (driving, working, walking, etc.).
- Pray with Confidence | When you pray, remind yourself: “God hears me because of Jesus.” Let that truth shape how you approach Him.

