1 – **The Spirit And Power Of Elijah**  **Luke 1:17**

2 - **Elijah Trusted God To Sustain Him**

After pronouncing judgment upon Ahab and the nation of Israel, Elijah himself had to trust that God would sustain him… w/o complaint.

* The brook and the raven. (17:3-7)
* The widow. (17:8-16)

**Will we allow ourselves to trust God**? (Matthew 6:11;
Hebrews 13:5)

Will we complain when our circumstances aren’t what we’d like? (Numbers 11:1)

3 – **Elijah Gave Evidence To Be Believed**

* Elijah raised the widows son… she confessed, *“****Now I know*** *that* ***you are a man of God*** *and that* ***the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth****.”* (17:24; Mark 16:20; John 3:2; Acts 14:3; Hebrews 2:3-4)
* Are we **always ready**? (1 Peter 3:15)
* Will we reason and persuade with others? (Acts 17:1-3)

4 – **Elijah Did Not Fear Man But God**

* Elijah sent to King Ahab in the midst of the “*severe*” drought that Elijah prophesied and after Ahab’s wife Jezebel murdered other prophets. (18:1-4)
* Obadiah doesn’t believe Elijah will present himself because he know what Ahab’s response will be. Elijah promises to “*show*” himself to Ahab. (18:7-16)
* We must not fear man! (Matthew 10:28; 1 Peter 3:14-15)

5 – **Elijah Identified The True *“Troubler Of Israel”***

* King Ahab called Elijah, *“****you troubler of Israel****”* (18:17)
* Viewed as the “***enemy***” because he told the truth. (21:20; 22:7-8 Galatians 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:2-3)
* Elijah turned it back on Ahab, *“****I have not troubled Israel, but you… have****, because you have* ***forsaken the commandments*** *of* ***the Lord****…”* (18:18; Joshua 7:25; Proverbs 14:34; Psalms 107:34)
* Forsaking God’s paths is what brings trouble for any people.
* Attacking messengers of God’s will… anyone who addresses sin.

6 – **Elijah Challenged All To Make A Choice**

* *“****How long will you hesitate (go limping****, ESV)* ***between two opinions****?* ***If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him****.”* (18:21)
* How sad/discouraging…***“the people did not answer him a word.”*** (18:21; cf., John 9:22; 12:42-43)
* **We must make a choice** and take a stand… **each day**! (Joshua 24:14-15)
	+ To submit, follow, sacrifice, love and fight. (Matthew 16:24-25; Romans 12:1-2; Mark 12:30; 1 Timothy 6:11-12)
* **Elijah sought God’s glory and changed lives**! (18:36-37)

7 - **Elijah Dealt With Discouragement & Despair**

* Jezebel puts a bounty on his life. (19:2; 18:4)
* He was ***“afraid”*** and “***ran for his life***”. (19:4)
* He was at such a low point that he said, *“****It is enough; now, O Lord, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers****.”* (19:4)
* He then went to a cave at Horeb where God asked him,
***“What are you doing here?”*** (19:9)
* Elijah answered, ***“I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts… And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.”*** (19:10)

8 - **Elijah Dealt With Discouragement & Despair**

* God shows him His power but reminds him that **the true change agent is His word**. (19:11-13)
* He is asked again, ***“What are you doing here?”*** (19:13) with the same response by Elijah (19:14) with the directive by God to “*Go… anoint… Hazael… Jehu… and Elisha*…” (19:15-17) to execute God’s judgment.
* We can’t be doing the Lord’s work hiding in our caves! (1 Corinthians 15:58)

9 - **Elijah Dealt With Discouragement & Despair**

* God then corrects Elijah’s assessment that ***“I alone am left”*** by letting him know that there are yet ***“7,000 in Israel who have not bowed to Baal”***. (19:18)
* There is always a faithful remnant that we need to seek for encouragement.
* Will we focus on the remnant and seek to encourage one another?

10 - **Elijah Called Elisha To True Discipleship**

* One of Elisha’s tasks was to anoint another prophet in his place. Elijah’s shoes needed filled! (19:16)
* He found Elisha and ***“threw his mantle on him”*** to bid him to follow Elijah. (19:19; 2 Kings 2:13)
* Elisha responded with the request to say goodbye to his family before following Elijah. ***“Go back again, for what have I done to you?”*** Elisha wasn’t being forced! He had to decide! (19:20; Luke 9:57-62)

11 - **The spirit of Elijah**

* *Elisha’s refusal to leave Elijah. (2 Kings 2:1-6)*
* *Elijah’s question:* ***“Ask what I shall do for you before I am taken from you?”*** *(2:9)*
* *Elisha requested:* ***“Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.”*** *(2:9)*
* *Elijah,* ***“You have asked a hard thing…”*** *(2:10) How so?*
* *Who will continue the work others have begun?*

12 - **Do We Have The spirit of Elijah**

* ***Do we trust God to bless us with what we need?***
* ***Are we persuaded by the evidence and witnesses of Jesus Christ and ready to defend our hope?***
* ***Do we have courage in the face of spiritual intimidation?***
* ***Will we speak only the utterances of God, “in season and out of season”?***
* ***Will we look to God, His word and our brethren to overcome discouragement?***
* ***Have I fully committed to following the Lord even when the path becomes difficult?***
* ***Have I fully obeyed His word?***