



AWCI SERMON *Notes & Announcements*

DATE: August 3rd, 2025

SPEAKER: Bishop (Dr.) Vincent Collins

SERMON TITLE: “Worship While You Wait: When Prayer Brings the Rain”

Visit www.agapeworship.org/resources

to access a digital copy or scan the QR Code.

KEY PASSAGE

1 Kings 18:41–46 (NIV): ⁴¹ And Elijah said to Ahab, “Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain.” ⁴² So Ahab went off to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees. ⁴³ “Go and look toward the sea,” he told his servant. And he went up and looked. “There is nothing there,” he said. Seven times Elijah said, “Go back.” ⁴⁴ The seventh time the servant reported, “A cloud as small as a man’s hand is rising from the sea.” So Elijah said, “Go and tell Ahab, ‘Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.’” ⁴⁵ Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain started falling and Ahab rode off to Jezreel. ⁴⁶ The power of the Lord came on Elijah and, tucking his cloak into his belt, he ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel.

INTRODUCTION

Elijah prays, and after three years of drought, God sends rain.

Family, welcome to August—a month of new beginnings. Summer is ending, students are returning to school and college, and routines are shifting. But in this moment of reset, let’s not forget the most important rhythm: pursuing God through prayer and worship. Now is not the time to coast spiritually—it’s time to reignite your altar.

To reignite your altar means to restore your personal space of prayer, worship, and surrender to God. It’s a spiritual reset. It’s putting God first—again. In the Old Testament, the altar was a place of sacrifice and meeting with God. In the New Testament, the altar is your heart—your devotion, your daily time with God.

As we enter 40 days of prayer and fasting, we’re not just checking a spiritual box—we’re positioning ourselves for signs, wonders, and miracles. We’re believing for rain—God’s power to pour out on the dry places in our lives.

What is Prayer?

Prayer is simply a real conversation with a real God. It’s not performance. It’s not religious talk. It’s heart-to-heart with the One who listens and responds.

BACKGROUND: ELIJAH’S MOMENT

In 1 Kings 17, Elijah prophesied a drought. For over three years—no rain, no growth, only dryness. But in 1 Kings 18, God said, “I will send rain.”

Yet even with the promise, Elijah didn’t just sit back—he climbed the mountain, bowed in prayer, and stayed there until the skies shifted. Because even divine promises require our participation.

What Does Rain Mean Today?

In Scripture, rain represents renewal, provision, and revival. This series begins with Elijah, a prophet who prayed through the drought—and saw God move. And just like Elijah, when we pray in faith, Heaven still answers.

SERMON POINTS

Pray With Expectation – The Sound Before the Storm

Get ready for what’s coming. The drought is over. The shift has already been spoken. The elevation is here.

- **1 Kings 18:1:** “Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.”
- **Isaiah 43:19 (NIV):** “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”
- **Psalms 75:6–7 (KJV):** “For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west... but God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.”

Pray with Persistence – Stay in Position Until It Pours

Elijah knew the rain still required partnership. God declared it, but Elijah prayed it into manifestation.

- **1 Kings 18:42–43 (NKJV):** “So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down... and said to his servant, ‘Go up now, look toward the sea.’ So he went up and looked, and said, ‘There is nothing.’ And seven times he said, ‘Go again.’”
- **Luke 18:1 (NIV):** “Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”
- **James 5:17–18 (NIV):** “Elijah was a human being, even as we are... he prayed earnestly that it would rain, and it did.”
- **Galatians 6:9 (NIV):** “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Pray with Purpose – Rain That Refreshes a Generation

When we pray in alignment with God’s purpose, Heaven responds not just to us, but through us.

- **1 Kings 18:45 (NKJV):** “Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain.”
- **Joel 2:23 (NIV):** “Rejoice... for He has given you the autumn rains... He sends you abundant showers.”
- **Isaiah 44:3 (NIV):** “I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground.”
- **Zechariah 10:1 (NKJV):** “Ask the Lord for rain in the time of the latter rain.”

BEYOND THE MESSAGE

If God said it—build, move, sow, shift, align. The rain is coming. When Elijah told Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink,” he was essentially saying: “Make room—something is about to break.” That was a prophetic announcement of elevation, abundance, and new beginnings.

Too often, we delay our obedience until we see change. We wait for conditions to improve before we move, praise, or pray. But Elijah shows us something radical—he responded to a sound that only faith could hear. God had spoken rain, and Elijah acted as if it had already come.

Likewise, when God speaks a promise over your life—about healing, restoration, family, or finances—you don’t wait until the skies of your situation shift. You change your posture immediately. You start preparing your life for the abundance you haven’t seen yet. If God has already released a shift in the spirit, don’t keep living like you’re still in a drought. Change your posture—because Heaven has changed the season.

Elevation in the spirit begins in the secret place. Prayer doesn’t prove the absence of faith—it proves the depth of faith. Humble yourself in the posture of expectation, and Heaven will honor your endurance.

Elijah had already declared the word—“I hear the sound of abundance of rain.” But instead of walking away from the moment, he walked up the mountain and down to his knees. He didn’t assume that God’s promise would manifest without his participation. He understood that promises require posture. Spiritually, this means when God gives you a word—whether it’s about healing, provision, family, or direction—your first response should be humility and intercession, not assumption or passivity. You climb higher in expectation but bow lower in dependence.

Persistence Is Proof of Your Faith

Elijah told his servant, “Go look.” The servant came back with nothing. Elijah didn’t change the message; he simply said, “Go again.” Not once, not twice—but seven times. This is a spiritual lesson in endurance, trust, and the discipline of persistence. God had already declared the season had shifted—but it still took repeated prayer, relentless expectation, and faith that refused to flinch in the face of silence. Your consistency in prayer is how you pull the invisible into the visible, the spiritual into the natural. Delay is not denial. Keep praying until your sky reflects what God has already released in your spirit. When the seventh moment comes, the cloud will appear.

Pray for Rain That Revives More Than Just You

When the cloud finally formed in Elijah’s day, it wasn’t just about wet ground—it was about a move of God. The skies didn’t just drip—they shifted. The wind stirred. And then came a heavy rain, a downpour that didn’t just end a drought—it ended a season of despair, loss, and spiritual silence.

Elijah wasn’t praying for personal comfort; he was praying with kingdom purpose. He didn’t want just a cloud—he wanted a change. His prayer was so rooted in the heart of God that when the rain came, it revived an entire nation. Your obedience in prayer may be the very thing that opens the heavens for someone else. This rain isn’t just to refresh you—it’s to reposition you. God is looking for bold believers who will carry the sound of heaven into the earth—those who will break cycles, shift environments, and birth revival through prayer.

NOTES


ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note: There are multiple ways to sign up for an event. You can scan the QR code, visit our website, or sign the signup sheet in the foyer under the event registration section.


August 6th at 7:00 pm— The final night of: In-person **Hour of Power**. Casual attire is encouraged throughout July. Come celebrate and praise God with us!

August 13th -August 27th at 7:00 pm- Wednesday Night Series: The Power of Prayer

Sept. 3rd - Oct. 8th at 7:00 pm: Wednesday Night Bible Study: Blueprint of Faith: The Nehemiah Bible Study!

Sept. 20th - Our next water baptism celebration—scan the QR code and sign up throughout August to take this powerful step of faith! If you’d like to be baptized sooner or in August, just let us know and we’ll gladly work with you. 

Sept. 20th at 10:00 am-4:00 pm —Annual Church Picnic. More details coming soon.

Oct. 15th-Nov. 19th at Various Dates & Times: Fall Into Agape’s Interest Groups. Scan the QR Code to sign up for more information, contact the Christian Education Department. 

Men’s Ministry Meeting. Every 3rd Saturday, 8:30 AM. At Agape Worship Center International 424 Lee Road, Columbia, SC. All men are invited. More information Contact Deacons Teddy Spence or Eureka Washington.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Sunday School

- Every Sunday at 10:10 am-10:55 am.
- Scan QR Code to Sign Up & receive a digital copy of the Sunday School Book.



Men’s Ministry Meeting.

- Every 3rd Saturday, 8:30 AM.
- At Agape Worship Center International
- All men are invited.
- More information: Contact Deacons Teddy Spence or Eureka Washington.

THE FOLLOWING WILL RESUME IN AUGUST

Breakfast For Champions: Weekday Devotion & Prayer

- Monday-Friday at 7 am
- Call In: 717-908-1690 Access Code: 577625

Intercessory Prayer

- Every 1st, 2nd, and 4th Monday at 6:30pm-7:30pm

Virtual Midday Bible Study

- Every Thursday at noon
- Call In: (470)869-2200 (US East)
- Meeting ID: 393-678-9202
- Virtual:meetings.ringcentral.com/j/3936789202

CONNECT, GROW, BELONG!

Whether you’re a first-time guest or a long-time member, we invite everyone to fill out our Connect Card—just scan the QR code to update your information, share prayer requests, and take your next step, whether that’s joining a membership class, signing up for baptism, finding a life group, volunteering, or simply learning more about our church. 