

Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word." **1 Kings 17:1 (NIV)**

HOW TO FLOURISH BEFORE THINGS GET BETTER

1. REMEMBER THE SOURCE

He set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he built in Samaria. Ahab also made an Asherah pole and did more to arouse the anger of the Lord, the God of Israel, than did all the kings of Israel before him. **1 Kings 16:32-33 (NIV)**

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **Matthew 6:33 (NIV)**

Give Him the First Part of every Day

Give Him the First Part of every Month

Give Him the First Part of every Paycheck

2. BE WILLING TO GO THERE

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there."

So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

1 Kings 17:2-6 (NIV)

3. DON'T EXPECT TO FIND TOMORROW'S RAIN IN YESTERDAY'S CLOUDS

Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. Then the word of the Lord came to him: "Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food."

1 Kings 17:7-9 (NIV)