

- d. ¹³ Elijah said to her, “Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.’” *Wait!* If she FIRST made some bread for Elijah, then her ingredients would be gone – right? *Wrong* – the Lord had promised to supply her with flour and oil until He supplied her with rain. It sounds crazy; *what would you do?*
- e. ¹⁵ *She [the widow] went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family.* ¹⁶ *For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.*

Conclusion: What is YOUR attitude? *Do you want to do whatever the Word says?* That attitude flows from the gift of faith (passive faith) that God has given us to trust in Jesus as our Savior!

Even with that attitude, we have certainly failed – *at times* – to do whatever the Word says! *Such failure should drive us back to Christ and the assurance of God's forgiveness!* Then, *knowing we are heaven-bound*, let us step-out in faith to do whatever the Word says! And all God's people said: *Amen!*

The Biblical Relationship between Faith and Works – Part 4

Passive Faith *Saves!*

(Passive Faith is God's gift of faith, which unites a person to Jesus!)

Active Faith *Serves* – *By Trying to Do Whatever the Word Says!*

Based on 1 Kings 17:1-16

10th Sunday after Pentecost, 9th Sunday after Trinity – 2010

Sunday August 1 at 9:00

A Different Sermon on Monday August 2 at 7:00

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, since I want YOU to *be saved and live as Christians*, we have already touched on these topics related to faith and works:

- **Faith in Jesus** – not our works – *is the way to heaven!*
- **Works** flow from faith and *are the evidence of faith!*
- Passive faith is the faith God has given us to trust alone in Jesus as our Savior – *so passive faith saves!* Active faith moves Christians to help others – *so active faith serves!*

Today we see what RESULTS from passive faith – *in connection with Elijah and the widow at Zarephath* – as we see them do whatever the Word says!

Before we get into chapter 17 of 1 Kings, let's get to know Ahab, *a king of Israel*, from chapter 16:

- He reigned (over the northern kingdom) for 22 years.
- He “*did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him.*” (30)

- He married Jezebel and began to worship Baal.
- He “did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than did all the kings of Israel before him.” (33)

1. **17:1-6, Elijah Took Radical Action to Do what the Word of the Lord Said:**

- ¹ Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead** [whose name means, “The Lord is my God” (CSSB, 507)], **said to Ahab** [the king of Israel], **“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.”** A radical thing to say to the king! The CSSB notes: “The drought was not only a divine judgment on a nation that had turned to idolatry, but also a demonstration that even though Baal was considered the god of fertility and lord of the rain clouds, he was powerless to give rain.” (508)
- ² Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: ³ “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. ⁴ You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there.”** [That sounds like foolishness, but Elijah trusted in the Lord!] **⁵ So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. ⁶ The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.** No matter what the Lord promises, *no matter how impossible it may seem*, He can do it and He will!

2. **17:7-16, Elijah and the Widow at Zarephath Took Radical Action to Do what the Word of the Lord Said:**

- ⁷ Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land** [because the Lord had declared it through Elijah]. **⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to [Elijah]: ⁹ “Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food.”** The CSSB notes: This is “the territory ruled by Jezebel’s father... [also] Elijah is commanded to go and reside in the heart of the very land from which the Baal worship now being promoted in Israel had come.” (508) Think about the Lord’s command: Go to Zarephath, to a widow; logic would say that *the location and the person are wrong! But what would you do?*
- ¹⁰ So he [Elijah] went to Zarephath** [Since he had the gift of faith, he was compelled to do whatever the Lord said]. **When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?”** She was very kind to respond! *The source of her kindness was her faith!*
- ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.” ¹² “As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread--only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it--and die.”** *So what was her situation?* She was a widow, had a son, and had only enough ingredients for one final meal – *or so she thought!*