



**QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD'S WILL**  
**1 Kings 18.36-19.3**  
*Ps. Hennie Swart*

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**Introduction**

- One of the most common questions pastors are asked is: "What is God's will for my life?"
- We come to church to discover God's will.
- We pray, "Your will be done..."
- We agonize about how God's will fits in with our suffering.

Though 1 Kings 18-19 doesn't answer all our questions about God's will, it does give us some important insights.

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**1 Kings 18.1-2, 36-46**

<sup>1</sup>After a long time, in the third year, the word of the Lord came to Elijah: "Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land." <sup>2</sup>So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab... <sup>36</sup>At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. <sup>37</sup>Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

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**1 Kings 18.1-2, 36-46**

<sup>38</sup>Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. <sup>39</sup>When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!" <sup>40</sup>Then Elijah commanded them, "Seize the prophets of Baal. Don't let anyone get away!" They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there. <sup>41</sup>And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain."

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**1 Kings 18.1-2, 36-46**

<sup>42</sup>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. <sup>43</sup>"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." <sup>44</sup>The seventh times 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.' "

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**1 Kings 18.45-19.3**

<sup>45</sup>Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain started falling and Ahab rode off to Jezreel. <sup>46</sup>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. <sup>1</sup>Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup>So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them." <sup>3</sup>Elijah was afraid and ran for his life.

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**Outline**

1 Kings 18.1-2, 36-46 reveals some important things about **God's will**:

- 1. How it is **revealed**
- 2. How it is **accomplished**
- 3. How it is **empowered**
- 4. How it is **resisted**

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**Deuteronomy 13.12-15**

<sup>12</sup>If you hear it said about one of the towns the Lord your God is giving you to live in <sup>13</sup>that wicked men have arisen among you and have led the people of their town astray, saying, "Let us go and worship other gods" (gods you have not known), <sup>14</sup>then you must inquire, probe and investigate it thoroughly. And if it is true and it has been proved that this detestable thing has been done among you, <sup>15</sup>you must certainly put to the sword all who live in that town.

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**James 5.16b-18**

<sup>16</sup>...The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

<sup>17</sup>Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

<sup>18</sup>Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

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**Ezekiel 37.1**

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.

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**James 5.16b**

Literal translation:  
“Great power [has the] supplication of [the] righteous, being energized.”

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**Conclusion**

Like Elijah we can receive power in prophecy and prayer through the Spirit of the Lord, if we are righteous, though not perfect!

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