

Prayer request from Pastor Search Team

The prophet Elijah is a great example of the importance of partnering with God through prayer. For three years and six months Israel had been plagued by famine until God promised the prophet that He would send rain. "And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year saying, 'Go show thyself to Ahab and I will send rain upon the earth,'" (1 Kings 18:1). But at the end of the same chapter in which the promise was given, we see Elijah praying for the fulfillment of the promise. He cast himself down on the ground and put his face between his knees. Seven times he sent his servant to look for any sign of rain, and in the meantime, James 5:17 tells us that he "prayed earnestly."

One might wonder why Elijah needed to pray at all if God had already promised that He would send the answer. But Elijah understood that the promise required partnership through prayer. Prayer is a partnership between heaven and earth that is exercised when God's people agree with the purposes of God and pray those purposes into being in the earthly realm. God has given us many promises if we only took hold of them. Have you been praying? As we move into an important piece of the process of calling our pastor, we need the kind of prayer Elijah prayed - "earnest prayer." The Search Team needs **your** earnest prayers in partnership with God.

1. Pray for members of the Search Team as they make decisions. Pray that God is leading them every step of the way.
2. Pray for the families of the Search Team.
3. Pray for the individuals who are being considered. Pray for God's leading and for the families to be in agreement with their decisions.

Yes! Prayer does matter. It has the power to change our world!

Judy Dirkse, Search Team Prayer Coordinator

(Segments taken from *YouVersion Bible - Prayer Matters*)