

DISCOVER AND EMBRACE

# God's created design

AND MISSION FOR YOUR LIFE!



# LIVING FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE BARREL

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Text: 1 Kings 17:7-16

*There are times when we reach down into our reserves to find that little bit of extra energy or strength or courage or comfort or peace, only to discover that we are drained and we're running on empty.*

*Although the bottom is a difficult place to be, the Bible teaches us that it is the place where we can truly experience God's provision.*

God doesn't want us just to **survive** when we're at the bottom of the barrel; He wants to teach us how to **thrive** during those times.

The woman from 1 Kings 17 teaches us several important lessons about how to do this.

### 1. We need the right **perspective** (vv. 12-14).

The temptation when we encounter difficulty is to **forget God**.

When we have a proper perspective on difficulties, God is in the forefront and the problem is in the shadow. He is all that we see.

During hard times, we need to remember God. We need to remember that He **is**, we need to remember **who** He is, and we need to remember that **we** are His.

### 2. We need the right **priorities** (v. 13).

- Put **God** first (Isa. 44:6).
- Spend **time** with the Lord first (Matt. 22:37-38).
- **Pray** first (1 Tim. 2:1).
- Repent first (Matt. 23:26).
- **Forgive** first (Matt. 5:23-24).
- Check your **attitude** first (James 3:17).
- Do the things that you did at first (Rev. 2:4-5).

How to put first things first:

- Check our **obedience**. Is there anything God is asking us to do that we're putting off?
- Let go of anything that we're **hanging onto** tightly.

- **Give** the little we have so that we can **receive** from the Lord.

### 3. We need **perseverance**.

And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’” And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah (1 Kings 17:13-16).

In God’s economy, a **little** is **enough**.

- The widow’s oil and flour (1 Kings 17:16).
- Manna for the children of Israel (Ex. 16:35).
- The little boy’s lunch (John 6:9-13).
- Gideon’s band of warriors (Judg. 7).
- David’s small rock (1 Sam. 17:49).

If you have **Jesus**, you will always have enough.

We need to persevere, because gold is refined in the crucible. When gold is heated, all the impurities rise to the surface. And sometimes that’s what God wants to do in our lives—to use the hard times to bring the garbage to the surface so we can bring it to the cross and Jesus can take care of it.

We need to persevere because the rains will come—because God is faithful (Isa. 41:18).

*There will be a time when there is no more mourning, no more tears, no more sadness, no more hunger, no more thirst. And how do I know that? Because God says so!*