

Where Are You? Part IV

Echo Church | Week 8 | February 23, 2025 | Rich Saunders Jr. |

“Go Up”

II Samuel 11:1-27 (NKJV)

Introduction

Family, I need you to lean into this moment. See, we’re stepping into a story that’s not just ancient history but a blueprint for how God moves in the NOW. Here’s Elijah, standing on Mount Carmel, fresh off a showdown with false prophets, and now he’s announcing rain. Think about it—no rain for over three years, the land is cracked, hope feels distant, and yet Elijah declares what hasn’t even happened yet. That’s faith. That’s vision. Today, we’re talking about aligning our eyes with God to “Go Up” into what He’s calling us to.

Three pivotal points for this season where you need your eyes on God and your heart locked into His plans:

Key Point 1: Hear the Sound Before You See the Rain

Verse 41: "Then Elijah said to Ahab, 'Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain.'"

- Insight into the text: Elijah hears something no one else hears. Not a cloud in the sky, but he’s locked into heaven’s frequency. Faith doesn’t operate by what you see; it operates by what you *hear*. Elijah wasn’t responding to the condition of the ground—he was responding to the promise of God.
- Relating it to today: What *sounds* of promise has God spoken over your life? Maybe it’s a dream that feels buried or a vision that hasn’t come to pass. Just because you can’t see it doesn’t mean it’s not on the way. You need to tune out the noise of doubt and tune into the sound of abundance. Shift your focus from the drought to the deliverance.
- Challenge: Don’t stop claiming the rain just because the forecast still looks dry. Start declaring His promises over the barren places in your life. Speak life over your marriage, your calling, your family, your future.

Statement to carry: Faith hears the rain before it falls.

Key Point 2: Go Again, Even When You See Nothing

Verse 43: “And [Elijah] said to his servant, ‘Go up now, look toward the sea.’ So he went up and looked, and said, ‘There is nothing.’ And seven times he said, ‘Go again.’”

- Insight into the text: Elijah’s servant didn’t see rain on the first try. Or the second. Or the third. Can we talk about how discouraging that is? Seven times Elijah says, “Go again.” This is a masterclass on perseverance. Elijah knows God spoke, so he doesn’t fold when the servant reports “nothing.”
- Relating it to today: How many times have you been on the edge of quitting because you’ve looked, and there’s been NOTHING? No answer. No breakthrough. No sign. But just like the servant, your responsibility isn’t to call it quits—it’s to “go again.” Keep trusting. Keep serving. Keep praying.
- Challenge: What if you’re on your sixth look, and the seventh is where your cloud appears? Don’t walk away too soon. God’s timing might not match your schedule, but His promise is still true.

Statement to carry: Obedience in the void is proof of trust in the Provider.

Key Point 3: Start Running—Even with a Small Cloud

Verse 44-45: "Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, 'There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!' ... Now it happened ... that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain."

- Insight into the text: The cloud was small, but Elijah didn't wait for it to grow before he acted. He didn't need the sky to be full of thunder and lightning. That little sign was enough for him to move. That's expectation. Elijah trusted that the God who sent the small cloud was the same God who could open up the heavens.
- Relating it to today: Too often, we delay action waiting for everything to look how we think it should. But God is asking, "Will you move on just a whisper of My promise?" Run when you see the small breakthrough. Rejoice when the first door cracks open. That little shift is confirmation.
- Challenge: Is there something in your life you're hesitant to act on because it feels too small to matter? Maybe it's a conversation, an opportunity, or a door you've been scared to walk through. If God sent the cloud, trust the rain is coming—start moving.

Statement to carry: Celebrate the small cloud because it's the start of the storm.

Closing

Family, Elijah's faith teaches us how to position ourselves for God's next move. Hear it before you see it, go again when you see nothing, and start running when the small signs show up. God's promises don't work on drought season timelines—they work on heaven's agenda. Align your eyes with His, and believe for what He's spoken, even if it hasn't happened yet.

Can we believe together today? Can we commit to hearing, persevering, and running? Because when God says, "Go Up," He's already poured out the rain—you just need to take the step. Go Up. Walk in faith. And don't stop until you see His promises fulfilled.