

A person is shown from the chest up, with their arms raised and hands open in a gesture of prayer or praise. The background is a bright, warm sunset or sunrise, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a strong lens flare effect. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a lighter yellow and then a pale blue at the top. The person's hands are positioned on either side of the central text, with fingers spread. The overall mood is one of spiritual devotion and hope.

Those Who Stand

in the
Presence
of the **Lord**

Gary Hargrave



Elijah Had a Nature Just Like Yours

In the Hebrew Scriptures, we find that the school of prophets ministered with great authority and power to influence the world around them. Although Elijah was respected and honored as one of the fathers of the great school of prophets, the Scriptures emphasize his humanness: “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months” (James 5:17). I think when we try to move in the things of God, we often feel like our ineffectiveness is related to our humanity. We use that in our minds as an excuse for what we are not able to do. But James is very clear here. Elijah was a man with a nature just like yours. That means he had all the same problems and all the same issues as you do. Yet when he prayed, it did not rain for three and a half years.

Although Elijah was just a man, he was able to move in power and authority and effectiveness. If his nature was not the issue, what made his authority function? Why was he so effective? James says that Elijah *prayed*, but the book of Kings says that he *proclaimed* it. The prophet boldly declared to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word” (1 Kings 17:1). That is what we call prophetic proclamation. He declared it as a statement, “This is the way it is going to be. No rain and no dew until I say.” Now remember this is a man with the same nature as yours. Yet he stood in the presence of God; therefore, what he spoke became the reality. This is the effectiveness we are reaching for. We do not have to be superhuman. We are not saying, “Hey, if we could just clean up our act a little bit and be better people, then we would have the authority we need.” With the very same nature that we have, Elijah was able to stop the rain because of his positioning. It is not about who we are or what we are. It is about our positioning before the Lord and our standing in His presence.



The Keys to Unlock the Door

This ability to stand in God's presence is why our oneness is so important. Oneness is like a key to the door of His presence. Everything we are reaching for is about coming into God's presence. We can be like Elijah and stand in the presence of the Lord, but first there are certain requirements we must meet. Oneness is one of those requirements. Remember the story that Yeshua (Jesus) told. If you come to worship and bring your offering to the altar (and we know the altar is the presence of God), and you are divided from your brother, just leave your gift, and go straighten out the problem with your brother first.

“Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.”

MATTHEW 5:23–24

The teaching of Yeshua is very clear. You are not going to enter the presence of the Father while you are divided from your brother. So our oneness together is one of the requirements for those who stand in the presence of God.

I think forgiveness is another necessary key for us to stand in His presence. If we do not forgive, the Lord will not forgive us.

“For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”

MATTHEW 6:14–15

We cannot stand in God's presence and be unforgiving. We know that Christ is our reconciliation to the Father; however, the very work of Christ on the cross is cut off from us when we refuse to forgive others. So there is no entry into the presence of God and no standing before the Lord without certain requirements being met. Our drive should be to remove every obstacle that hinders us from standing in the presence of the Father under the covering of Yeshua's grace and blood. We must see every obstacle removed. We must have that free access to be those who stand in the presence of God. This is fundamentally why the school of prophets was effective. Just as Elijah stood in God's presence, so the school of prophets were those who stood in the presence of the Father. In the same way, the Body of Christ must be a school of prophets, able to stand in God's presence to affect the age around us.



Christ Was a Man of Like Passions

When Christ was in the earth, He was also a man of like passions as we have. He was called the Son of Man (Matthew 9:6). He was not Superman; He lived in the flesh just like we live in the flesh. He was a man with like passions as ours.

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

HEBREWS 4:15-16

When we look at the effectiveness of Yeshua's words—words of healing, words that brought judgment, words that took authority over the natural storm of the winds and rain—it sounds very much like Elijah. Elijah had authority over the natural elements, and Yeshua had that same effectiveness. Yet we know that when Christ was in the earth, He likewise was a man in the flesh. And we know that Yeshua did not do these things out of His own energy. He said, "I can do nothing on My own initiative" (John 5:30). As a man, He stood in the presence of the Father; Yeshua and the Father were one (John 10:30).

I always love the story in John the eleventh chapter, verses 30 to 44. It is the story about Yeshua raising Lazarus from the dead. When Yeshua went to raise Lazarus, He talked to the Father first. I love the part where Yeshua says to the Father, "I don't even need to voice this prayer. Between You and Me, there is no need to pray because I know You hear Me and I know that what I ask, You will do. I don't even need to voice this because what is about to happen is born out of Our relationship together." That is saying a lot because what was about to happen was a resurrection from the dead! That was an amazing feat to watch. Yeshua said, "I don't even have to make this prayer. However, for everybody standing around, I'm going to pray so they hear Me. But this event is not going to happen because they hear Me pray. This resurrection happens because of Our relationship; it happens because I stand in Your presence." That is fantastic!

Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me." When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

JOHN 11:41-44

Likewise, we must come into the presence of the Father and stand before Him so that what we determine will happen. You may ask, "Well, how do we pray that way?" It is really very simple. Yeshua already taught us to pray, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it already exists in heaven" (see Matthew 6:10). So we are to proclaim and pray and speak into existence the will of God in this earth as it is now in heaven.





We Enforce the Will of God into the Nations

We see in the Scriptures that those who were anointed men and women of God impacted the geophysical world around them (Joshua 10:12–13; 2 Kings 6:5–6, 20:11; Hebrews 11:29). I do not believe we are to do anything less. Our worship and times of gathering together are a time of preparation. You can say, “Well, they’re times of filling and ministering to my spirit.” Yes, but only so that you can be launched into the will of God. We need the same effectiveness that we find in Elijah and that we find in Yeshua. Things are happening in the world that we need the ability to impact. Things around Elijah would not have changed if he did not have the ability to stop the rain from falling. He affected the leaders of his world by his control over the natural elements.

We must do the same. I will give you some examples. There is upheaval in China. We see what is happening in Ukraine. We have nations invading other sovereign nations. That is an unbelievable thing to witness in history. It is a violation of every national and international law that we know. Look what continues to happen in Syria. There are many places in the world where we still have tremendous poverty and starvation. We have thousands of innocent people being killed and starving to death. It has been interesting how much martyrdom of Christians has been taking place. Christians have been taken out and shot in the head just because they were Christians. So we have to ask ourselves, “Who is going to do something about this? And how are we going to do anything about it?” I feel like one of the greatest answers to the world is a school of prophets that comes forth in the Body of Christ.

We need authority in our prayer. You say, “Well, I’m not sure what the will of God is.” Go back to the prayer of Yeshua, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done” (Matthew 6:10). Yeshua did not say that you have to know what the will of God is. He said that we have to enforce the will of God. In our prayer, in our intercession, in our prophetic proclamation, we enforce God’s will and His Kingdom in every situation. But if we do not have access, if we are not standing in the presence of the Father, where would the authority come from? We must gain this access through our oneness. We gain it through our forgiveness. We gain it by exercising these higher principles of God in the Spirit. The door is open for us so that from His presence we can proclaim the release of His will into the earth.



We Can Stand in the Presence of the Father

Let us believe that in our oneness, in our love one for another, in the things that God has been imparting to our spirits that we can come before the Father and stand in His presence. And from that Presence, we begin to enforce the will of God into the nations. The Scripture says, “The earth is the LORD’S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it” (Psalm 24:1). This earth is the Lord’s. And we want to enforce His dominion and enforce His Kingdom into the nations of the earth. What Elijah did, he did to subvert and block the actions of a perverted king. We need that same ability. We look at some of the perversion of these dictators and rulers and what they do to suppress the people. They promote poverty and starvation and worse, they promote death. It is time for a change. What is that change? It is the Kingdom of God. And we are the ones that God has directed to enforce and bring about His Kingdom—through a school of prophets.

One of the great stories about the school of prophets was when Saul was seeking to kill David. And Saul’s murderous intentions were stopped because of the authority of the school of prophets under Samuel (1 Samuel 19:18–24). We declare that this day of prophetic anointing returns to the earth. We must get rid of every feeling in our hearts and minds that this cannot happen because we are mere men, we are just human. Elijah was a man with a nature just like ours. Yet his prayer and his proclamation changed the course of his world. These prophets and men and women of God are not going to climb out of the Bible and do this for us. We must do it. And to do it, we must enter the presence of the Father. From that place, we proclaim with authority the Kingdom of God. We proclaim the will of God in these areas of the world. It is our time. We now become those who change the course of this age and this world. And it is time for a change. It is time that we stop the events that are coming to destroy the people of the nations.

The New Testament says that satan “prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8). The devil’s purpose is to destroy all flesh, but he will not be successful because there is a school of prophets. We enter in and begin to change the course of this age. We begin to write a new history for China, Venezuela, Syria, Brazil, Ukraine, and the other nations. We will write a new history for the poor of this age and the starving. We can change their world as we stand in the presence of the Father. We can begin to prophesy until the world changes, and it is translated out of the domain of darkness into the Kingdom of God’s beloved Son (Colossians 1:13). It is time. Elijah had the same nature as we do, but he stood in the presence of God. The issue is not our nature. The issue is our positioning. So we enter into the presence of the Father, and from there we proclaim His Kingdom, in the name of the Lord. Amen.

ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel and the lands of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God*, and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

Gary and his family reside in Hawaii.

For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org.

ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish roots of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes our ability to:

- **Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel**
- **Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers**
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism**
- **Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research**
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors**
- **Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives**
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

Hargrave Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supported through the generous contributions of ministry friends and partners. To learn more about the work of Hargrave Ministries or to partner in its outreach to Israel, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org

