

# GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

1 Kings 17:17-24

*Hope never dies because the God of the impossible lives.*

## **And the hits just keep on coming! (17:17-18)**

A strange and lingering illness  
The tragic death of a family member  
Searching for an explanation, even someone to blame  
    Looking outward—irrational accusation  
    Looking inward—superstition and self-condemnation

## **So, this is what it's like to be a servant of God? (17:19-21)**

A stunning silence in the face of verbal garbage  
    No argument, no rebuke, no explanation  
    Gentle service and simple burden sharing  
Alone with God in the secret place  
    Totally perplexed and desperate for a miracle  
    Praying an impossible prayer  
    Willing to be ceremonially “unclean”

## **And this is what it looks like when God uses his servant. (17:22-24)**

Sweeter than Asherah—the beautiful compassion of God  
Better than Baal—the unlimited power of God  
Giving God the glory for what only God can do  
The impact of God at work through a life devoted to him

## **So, how do we face an impossible situation today?**

What can we do?

Get alone with God.  
Pour out your problem to the Lord.  
Strive for patient endurance and calm assurance.  
Lay your burden before the Lord.  
Receive God's deliverance in due course.

How can we maintain hope?

Look to Jesus—God with us, God for us.  
Look to Jesus—willing to be *actually* “unclean.”  
Look to Jesus—risen from the dead.  
Look to Jesus—“Because I live, you also will live.”