

## Listen To The Still Small Voice Of God

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### Part Four

The story Elijah has always be one of my favorite stories. When I visited Israel I stood on top of the mountain where he met the prophets of Baal, I went and found a rocky outcropping near the top and just gazed over the plains below and considered what transpired between him and Jezebel. Everyone was looking for me, I simply needed to be alone and consider the biblical story of Elijah the prophet.

Elijah was one of the most powerful prophets of God. Nobody doubted his calling, his prayers brought results. When Elijah prayed, fire fell from heaven and rain fell from the sky. His prayers altered the course of an entire nation. He was also one of two men in scripture who did not see death. There is no doubt that Elijah was in the will of God.

Having acknowledged the above, we also read in the book of 1 Kings about a time in Elijah's life when it seemed like all of Hell was rising up against him. Israel had forsaken the ways of God, the altars had been destroyed and the prophets of God had been slaughtered. Elijah found himself all alone and began to wonder if God was still with him. He decided to run for his life, in fact, it got so bad he asked the Lord to take his life.

### **1 Kings 19:1-4**

*And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time. And when he saw that, he arose, **and went for his life**, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, **It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.***

Queen Jezebel had been threatening Elijah's life for some time and it was heating up. Jezebel had just informed Elijah by way of messenger that he would be dead by the same time tomorrow! This was a man hunt, she had people looking for

him everywhere and he was frightened and on the run from his enemy. Elijah could feel the pressure and he couldn't take it anymore. It is hard to picture the most powerful of all of the prophets at that time being backed into a corner by the enemy and running for his life.

Ever feel like Elijah? I think most of us have had a modern day crisis like this famous prophet that has inflicted us fear and oppression. Let's look at this more closely. In the midst of running, God sends an angel to feed him. "That ought to be enough to confirm that God is with you Elijah." I know if an angel visited me, it just might be enough to convince me to do whatever God asked of me. Still, Elijah kept running.

The meat the angel brought to Elijah sustained his life for forty days and nights. That might be a hint that God is with you. Finally he finds a place to hide in and the Word of God came to him in his cave of despair, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" God wasn't asking about Elijah's physical location, He was asking about Elijah's spiritual condition. God wanted to know why Elijah had given up and was isolated and hiding in "dispair." Listen to Elijah's response...

### **1 Kings 19:10-12**

*10 And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.*

God responded by asking Elijah to go out and stand on the mountain. God wanted to teach Elijah a powerful lesson that we all need to understand.

### **1 Kings 19:11-12**

*And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.*

In each of these overwhelming displays, I am sure that Elijah felt God would reveal Himself to him, but God was not in any of them. Finally, after the fire.... there comes a still small voice, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah repeats his previous answer, "God everybody else has forsaken you, they have destroyed the altars and killed your prophets, I am the only one left, and surely you don't want me to minister to these people now?" God responds...

## **1 Kings 19:15-16**

*And the Lord said unto him, **Go, return on thy way** to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.*

God's response was simple, "Return to what I have called you to do!" The still small voice of God was all that was needed to confirm to Elijah that he was still called of God and he still had a work to do. It is exactly what God is saying now;

*"You look much better in the future than you do right now, return to what I have called you to do."*

If you find yourself surrounded by the enemy, and you feel like throwing in the towel, don't wait for an angel, and don't expect some spectacular sign from heaven.... God has given you His Word and His Spirit. I have a favorite saying;

*"Jesus and the bible is more than enough."*

When you stay in the will of God, what you fear the most will likely never come to pass. God has already defeated your enemies. Jezebel never succeeded in taking the life of Elijah, God took care of Jezebel. What makes you think He won't take care of your life as well?

I end this fourth eJournal with another favorite saying;

*"Where He leads He feeds, what He orders He pays for and what He directs He protects."*



*Blessings Pastor Bob Hill*

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**Part Five: How Do We Know We Are Called?**