



Dear Precious Friend,

December, 2010

ELIJAH: The Power of Confrontation

“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 land for three years and six months, and he prayed again,

and the heaven gave rain and the earth produced its fruit.” *James 5:17-18*

I have read these passages in *James 5* and quoted them for years, but a few months ago (before the fires on Mount Carmel), the Lord challenged me with an unusual question. He said, “Between the first and second prayer of Elijah, what happened?” I answered the Lord at once: “between the two prayers of Elijah, there was a confrontation.”

Most people do not like confrontations. They prefer to simply say, “No problem, it doesn't matter, or the Lord will deal with it.” However, many things have remained unchanged because of this refusal to confront some very real issues in our personal lives, our relationships, and in the world around us. Confrontation is never easy and always costs something, but often it is the only way to bring about the real change that will move us into true authority in the Lord.

Moses had to confront Pharaoh. John the Baptist had to confront the Pharisees and Herod. Elijah had to face King Ahab. All these men, and others of like Spirit were prepared to know the Lord's voice and His ways. They were ready for the Master's use when the need came for a showdown.

In *I Kings 17:1*, Elijah suddenly appeared on the scene as if from nowhere. Like Moses in the backside of the desert for forty years, Paul in Arabia for fourteen years, we know very little about Elijah's preparatory years. But one thing that we can see is that this man had become so intimate with the heart of God, that he knew His still small voice and obeyed it over all the other voices around him no matter what the cost, as when he appeared before King Ahab and declared:

“As the Lord God of Israel lives; before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”

The Lord immediately shut up the heavens for three and a half years.

Who was this Elijah who could make such a declaration and have it come to pass at once, and who had such intimate union with the heart and will of the Lord that he could declare God's word as being his own? Similarly, when asked who he was, John, who came in the Spirit of Elijah, answered:

“I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness.” *John 1:23*

The Lord has been showing me that the one who has stood in His presence, hearing His voice and obeying that voice over and over again, will become that voice. John the Baptist had said:

“The friend of the Bridegroom who stands and hears Him, rejoices greatly because of the Bridegroom's voice. He must increase, but I must decrease.” *John 3:29-30*

King Ahab spent the next 3 years furiously hunting down Elijah for declaring the word that shut up the heavens and brought three and a half years of famine to the land.

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.” *Malachi 4:5*

As John the Baptist came in the Spirit of Elijah before the first coming of Yeshua, as being “the voice of one,” so also the Lord has been seeking a people in these last days to function in that same calling. There is a remnant in this day who are being set apart to hear His voice so that they will be able to speak a present word to this generation in order to prepare a people for the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

Like Elijah and John the Baptist, these have been hidden away for a set time of preparation, but they will come on the scene, as if out of nowhere. When they do, they will be so united in intimate relationship with the Lord that they will be able to say like Elijah, “except at my word,” and the Lord will perform that word.

Immediately after Elijah obediently declared the shutting up of the heavens, the word of the Lord came to him.

“Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith which flows into the Jordan. And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.” *I Kings 17:3-4*

Elijah had been prepared in Gilead to hear the voice of the Lord in order to declare it before King Ahab. Now there would be a further separation and preparation in order to be able to stand before the false prophets of Baal, and the whole nation of Israel to bring them back to Elohim. God is calling for those in this present hour who are willing to be trained to hear God's voice, not just for themselves, but to turn a whole nation back to the Lord.

In his obedience to the call, Elijah was hidden and fed by the Lord's hand. The Lord is seeking those in this hour who will not eat one crumb at the table of Jezebel, nor bow to Baal, but will be fed exclusively by the hand of the Lord Himself. Like Jesus, this Elijah remnant will declare that, “My food is to do the will of Him that sent me.” In the face of the greatest temptations of Satan in these last days, they will be able to say, “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every rhema that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”

The one who feeds us is the one who gets our obedience. God is preparing a people in this present time who are being fed by His hand, and who will perform His will alone, for He will prepare a table before them even in the presence of their enemies.

Elijah is fed his daily bread by ravens and he receives his water (of the word) at the Brook of Cherith for a year. When that brook dries up, the word of the Lord comes to him again saying,

“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.” *I Kings 17:9*

So he arose and went.

God had provided a way out when the brook dried up, but it meant entering into the city of Jezebel, the one who slew the prophets of the Lord. Elijah arose and went for he had come to trust in the voice of the Lord above the fear of death. In that same Spirit, the Lord is seeking a remnant today who will follow His voice alone, and not love their own lives even unto death.

It was in Zarephath where the Lord multiplied the bin of flour and the jar of oil according to the word that He spoke by Elijah. It was in Zarephath that the widow’s son was raised from the dead.

“Then the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived.” *I Kings 17:22*

When we learn to hear and obey the Lord’s voice alone, then when we cry out, He will hear our voice. Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth.” When we hear and live only by the word that proceeds out of God’s mouth alone, then He will put that word in our mouth. Then it will be said of us that the word of the Lord in our mouth is the truth.

Elijah did not pray again for rain until the word of the Lord came in the third year. In *I Kings 18:1* the word of the Lord came to Elijah:

“Go, present yourself to Ahab and I will send rain on the earth.”

So Elijah went.

Most of us are praying for both natural and spiritual rain, but if we look at these Scriptures and follow the pattern of the Lord, we will see that there could be no abundance of rain until there first was a confrontation with King Ahab and the false prophets of Baal. The Lord is seeking a people who will not do business as usual, but will enter into a deeper preparation to cooperate with Him in these great end time battles.

If we only look at *James 5: 17-18*, where this article began, we might think that it was the power of Elijah’s prayer that brought both the drought and the rain. Many of us have thought that if we can somehow pray like Elijah, we can open and shut the heavens. We read *Mathew 16:19* and trust that we have the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatever we bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever we loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

So, we declare and expect that what we have said, we shall have. But actually as we have seen in *I Kings 17-18*, it was the obedience of the prophet in not only praying, but in confronting the powers of darkness that had overtaken the nation of Israel and forced God’s hand of judgment, that opened and closed heaven.

Our prayers are only as effectual as our obedience to His will. When we DO what God says, God will DO what He has promised, for He can use even one man to change the

course of history when that man, like Elijah, has died to his own will and is living in pure obedience to God alone.

Many years ago, the Lord told me that if I was not willing to be the answer to my prayers, then He was not obliged to answer them. Today, we pray for rain, but each one of us must go deeper into the heart of God in order to receive the instruction of the Lord that will bring about the necessary transformation for the prayer for abundant rain to be answered. John the Baptist was sent in the Spirit of Elijah as the forerunner for the first coming of the Messiah. In like manner, we are being prepared to be sent as a corporate Elijah into the world at this present time to prepare a people for the return of the Lord.

There is an open window of opportunity at the present time for those who have been prepared in Yeshua to “present themselves to Ahab.” For just as the Spirit of the Lord was upon Elijah to confront Ahab when in fact Ahab had the power to destroy him, so grace is beginning to flow from heaven to confront the prophets of Baal. The Lord is demonstrating His sovereign authority over all the powers and principalities in the heavens.

This is truly the hour for an Elijah company to rise up in the Spirit of the Lord with all the power of heaven upon him. We must not lose this opportunity, but move into it. What would have happened if Elijah had not obeyed the Lord? Would the Lord have sent the rain? Would He have sent another prophet? There were still 7000 who had not bowed their knee to Baal.

Are you one of them?

Who will rise up in this hour in the Spirit of Elijah to confront the powers of Baal?

In His Amazing Love,

Greta