

FIRE FALL

Day Fourteen: Turn Our Hearts Back

“Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that Thou art the LORD God, and that Thou hast turned their heart back again” ... 1 Kings 18:37

God’s heart has always been for His people. We often turn away our hearts from Him, but the heart of the Father is always open for prodigals to return.

The prophet Malachi connected the account of Elijah’s past with the coming of Christ. He pointed both backward and forward to declare three basic concepts. First, God uses individuals to prepare a way for Christ’s presence to manifest. Second, the process of preparation is all about the heart... “turning the hearts of the fathers to the sons, and the sons to the fathers.” Finally, without a reconnecting of the hearts, the curse on the land will be perpetuated. (4:5-6)

Nowhere in scripture do we find Elijah turning the generations toward each other. We find him receiving words for future generations, anointing his own successor, and raising a dead son back to life...but the only place where hearts are turned is on Mount Carmel. The working of the Spirit on top of the mountain turned the hearts of all the generations toward the heart of the Father in Heaven.

Elijah understood that the greater power was not going to be in the fire, nor in the rain that would follow. Instead, the true power was a loving Heavenly Father doing whatever it took to move the hearts of a nation...His children...back toward His heart!

Elijah didn’t call on Israel to repent on Mount Carmel. He simply asked God to turn their hearts back toward the Father as they realized there is no God but Him. Elijah’s call for the nation to follow the God who brought fire represented a call to change direction for Israel.

Repentance is not about saying “I’m sorry.” It is a 180 degree turn in the right direction. Confession in repentance is not just about admitting our sins, but even more so, it is a declaration of Whom we will follow. At its core, repentance is a work of God...turning our hearts towards His. Repentance thus becomes a lifestyle of dependence upon God’s grace to transform us as we daily choose to follow Him. Without continuing in the direction of God’s heart, we perpetuate the drought...the curses...over our people and all that they possess.

And so we pray:

Oh Father... We long for Your heart. Our hearts, and the hearts of those around us, have become overwhelmed with desires that are not from You. As a people, our passions... the drumbeat of our hearts... are constantly at odds with the desire to draw closer to You.

We confess both our need and dependence upon You, and ask You to change our hearts! Turn our hearts to You! Your heart is perpetually toward us, but our hearts have wandered so far... Please hear our cry and turn the hearts of the generations in our nation back to You!

In the name of Your Son, Jesus the Christ, who is the manifestation of Your heart toward us we pray...AMEN