

*And Elijah said unto Ahab, "Get thee up, eat and drink;
for there is a sound of abundance of rain."... 1 Kings 18:41*

One of the problems seen in revival history can be summed up with Simon Peter's thoughts on transfiguration. He wanted to build three tabernacles on the mountain; one for Moses, one for Elijah, and another for Jesus. This is the way the Jews had done things for years...build memorials when something dies and landmarks when something remarkable happens. This both served to inspire piety, and with eventual pilgrimages, it also became a way to boost the economy. Like so many before him, essentially Simon said, "It was good for us to be here...now let's institutionalize it."

Too many revivals, born in prayer, die in maintenance. Instead of pushing farther in prayer, the season of breakthrough is often mistaken for revival, when it was intended to be an opening for greater transformation to be birthed. As a result, most historic revivals lost their impact within two generations. The recent revivals in Hemet, CA, and Brownsville, FL, didn't even last one.

Elijah didn't dwell on the fire that had fallen. As incredible as it had been, it was not the reason for which he had called the nation together. The purpose for the gathering was to turn the hearts of the people back to God, while creating an atmosphere in which the drought would end and the heavens would pour out their rain. While the experience and power of the fire were essential in drawing the kingdom back, it was not the closing chapter in the saga. Had it been the climax, the nation would have ended up saying, "Well, we tried it your way God, and yet we are still dying of thirst."

Elijah had to listen beyond the moment. The moment had been a victory no doubt. The prophets of Baal and Asherah were no more and the people were worshipping the LORD in the glow of God's flame. But Elijah had to be tuned in to a moment that was yet to come. Its sound captivated his attention. It framed the words with which he would speak, and it drove him to pray even more fervently than he had already prayed.

What sound are we tuned in to? The sound of an open heaven precedes the rain! Are we willing to pray that sound into reality? We must be willing to move from the fire to the rain. We cannot afford to stay camped on the mountain!

And so we pray:

Father...Our nation has so many needs! We want to see Your fire, but our nation needs Your rain! Please bring the fire to revive us and the rain to transform us! Let Your glory descend upon us, but also bring Your favor to restore our people!

Don't let us become so satisfied on the mountain that we miss taking Your presence into the valley! Help us to hear the blessing beyond this moment, and beyond the moments to come.

Open our ears to hear so we might know what to say and how to pray!

In Jesus name we pray these things...AMEN