

FIRE FALL

Day 19: Intensify Our Prayers

...Elijah went up to the top of Carmel and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees... 1 Kings 18:42

Having answered a short but powerful prayer, God had proven Himself to a new generation. The fire had fallen, but the rain was yet to come. Instead of resting on his laurels, Elijah continued to pray forward, hearing in his spirit the sound of abundant rain. Those prayers were different. The seriousness of his intercession pulled him to the ground. Taking upon himself the physical form of travail, he intensified his prayers.

The words Elijah prayed at this point are not written for us in Scripture, even as his prayers that began the drought were not recorded. What we do know, as James Chapter 5 points out, is that these prayers were earnest, fervent and effective. As a result, “the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit” (James 5:18).

It should be noted that an answered prayer should produce an even more intensive prayer effort on our part. Answered prayers should become like step stones of faith, always taking us one step closer to the fruit-filled harvest. But instead of praying simply for our own fruitfulness, we must pray for God’s involvement to return...for the same God who proved Himself in the fire, now to engage His people with the blessing of the rain.

We don’t want people simply to point back to where we were with God, but to point from our encounter to the next step in God’s Kingdom design. This takes a dedicated prayer life that is equally inspired by the miraculous moment and focused in on the missional mandate. Without fulfilling the mission of calling forth rain, Elijah would have actually failed at Mount Carmel. In like manner, if we lose track of reaching the lost with the Gospel of Christ, then our fire falls will have served no eternal purpose.

And so we pray.

Father, Lord of the Harvest...Help us to look again to the ripe harvest. Christ taught us to ask You to send forth workers. We want to be obedient and fulfill our purpose in the earth. Remind us that we not only pray for Your glory to be seen, but for the souls to encounter Your love and grace.

We want our faith to be encouraged, but not for it to end in the manifestation of signs. Instead we want those signs to point our nation back to You! Pour out the life giving rain of Your Spirit upon our people! Flood us with Your grace!

In Jesus name we pray...AMEN