

# FIRE FALL

## Day Nine: Preparing the Sacrifice

*...He made a trench about the altar...And he put the wood in order,  
and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said,  
"Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the sacrifice, and on the wood"*

*...1 Kings 18:32b-33*

The reason the Northern Kingdom was willing to meet with Elijah for this showdown, was not because they wanted fire, but because they needed water. The drought and subsequent famine had been underway for three and a half years. There was no end in sight. The government (Ahab) had exhausted all of their resources in trying to combat the problem with no significant improvement.

Now, with God's name on the line, Elijah prayed for fire before praying for rain. He sacrificed the desire for water and replaced it with a desire for God's presence. Even after rebuilding the altar and arranging the agreed upon sacrifice, he went even further, requiring twelve barrels of water to be poured over both sacrifice and altar. He was willing to sacrifice the very thing the people so desperately needed if it would mean God's glory being revealed.

Sometimes we forget that the focus of our prayers is not simply for the fire to fall, but is instead that the drought will end with a manifestation of God's glory. Poverty, joblessness, poor health, drug addiction, exploitation, and all other manner of scars within our land are the fruit of failing to glorify God as a people. If our prayers are focused on only the problems, and we fail to invite God's glory to be revealed, then we spend our entire ministries treating symptoms instead of healing sickness.

When God's presence erupts, it changes the climate around us. His manifestation will turn the tide and open up the portals of Heaven to pour out the end to our drought. But are we willing to be faithful in the pouring out? Even when we feel as though we have no reserves, are we willing to spend our entire self in preparation for God's manifest presence in our lives?

*And so we pray:*

*Father...I sacrifice my will and desires in order for Your glory to be seen. Good, bad or indifferent, I release all my intentions and declare my earnest desire to see Your glory revealed in the earth. You alone can heal Your people. You alone can end the droughts in our land. And so it is to You alone that I pour out all that I am in preparation for Your outpouring. Reveal all that You have intended for this season in my life, and in the lives of those around me, as I humbly pour out myself on the altar of living sacrifice.*

*In the name of Your holy Son, Jesus, I pray...AMEN*