

FIRE FALL

Day 15: Consume Us with Your Fire

Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench...

1 Kings 18:38

When Elijah prayed, God answered with a fire that consumed every aspect of the sacrifice. It engulfed the bull, the wood, the altar, the dust, and finally the water...the highest commodity that day. Nothing was left on that spot except the fire.

As previously stated, after Christ's ultimate sacrifice, we are now called to live the life of a sacrifice. What should a living sacrifice, consumed with God's fire, look like? Could it be that every aspect of our lives should be aflame with His glory, in the same way that the bull, wood, altar, dust and water were consumed at Mount Carmel? Is it possible, as D.L. Moody used to state, that "The world has yet to see the effects of one man who is totally surrendered to Christ?"

After the Israel's first Pentecost in the wilderness at Horeb, Moses had to wear a veil when he came out of God's fiery presence. The people were too afraid to look at the afterglow that burned within Moses. At the same time, putting the veil on also meant that no one would know when, and if, the fire went out.

In both the tabernacle and temple, the altar was to burn with perpetual fire. If the fire went out, it was viewed as an outright act of disobedience on the part of the priests. More importantly, it was viewed as separation from God's presence since the flame had a divine origin...a fire fall at the dedication of both places of worship.

With this in mind, we look to the dedication of the Spiritual tabernacle of God's New Testament Church on the Day of Pentecost. There was wind. There were tongues. There was fire. That day 3,000 souls received Christ. The church, born in fire, began to grow daily, such as should be saved.

Now, nearly 2,000 years later, we ask ourselves, where is the fire that burned in those original 120 at Pentecost? Have we kept the flames burning? Is the altar of our lives still consumed with the glory of the Lord, or have we allowed that flame to be diminished to the point of seeming nonexistent?

Once again we need the flames of Pentecost to be rekindled in our hearts!

And so we pray:

Heavenly Father...Forgive us for allowing the coolness of the world to render inactive the fire of Your presence within the hearts of believers. Bring back the flame of Your glory again! Let fire be rekindled in our churches...let it be ablaze within Your Church!

Bring us back to Pentecost, where Moses glowed and Your Church was born!

Revive us so You may reach the world through us!

In Jesus Name we pray...AMEN

FIRE FALL

Day 16: Experiencing the Fire

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces

...1 Kings 18:36

We all understand, as Hebrews 11:1 tells us, “Faith is the substance of things hoped for...the evidence of things unseen.” Our faith is not dependent upon what we see, feel or experience. We believe, and based upon those beliefs, we live accordingly. However, our faith is often stirred by experiences.

People can argue with you all they want about the existence of God. Yet, when you’ve experienced His ability to change your life, (forgiveness, deliverance, healing, etc.), then all those individuals combined cannot silence your faith.

As the Apostle Paul told Timothy, “I (We) know in whom I (we) have believed...” (2 Timothy 1:12). Paul could say this because of the post-ascension, post-Pentecost encounter which he had with Christ. Though he had not witnessed the miracles of Jesus’ ministry in Judea, Paul experienced Him first hand in such a way as to completely transform both Paul and his mission. Instead of destroying Christianity, Paul became the greatest apologist for Christ!

The Wesley brothers had faith. They spoke of their faith in several meetings, yet John and Charles struggled with a faith that was mostly intellectual. They took part in a small group that met on Fetter Lane in an effort to grow their faith beyond just mental ascent. Along their journey, the questions they asked, and the faith they proclaimed in England’s pulpits, caused them to be ostracized from numerous churches. Still, Charles received a divine healing and John continued to grow in faith. Finally came the famous moment at Aldersgate that would forever change their trajectory...that moment in which John Wesley proclaimed “I felt my heart strangely warmed.” It was not the kind of revival service one would imagine. In fact, it was merely the reading of Luther’s introduction to Romans which became the conduit for this experiential faith...an experiential faith which became contagious and swept the world by storm!

There are so many ways through which God can bring His transforming fire into the lives of willing vessels. It may be through restoring an extinct coral reef, as God has done in Fiji. It may be in causing vegetables to grow longer than the length of your arm, as God has done in Guatemala. Yet, like with Elijah would experience at Horeb, God can choose to use a still small voice instead of fire, the wind or an earthquake. All that matters is that new generations have an opportunity to see God manifest His presence in such a way that faith becomes life!

And so we pray:

Heavenly Father...We invite You to do such a work among us that no one can doubt that You are moving. We do not desire a fire to contain in our buildings, but instead we ask you to send a blaze into our communities that will draw people to You!

Bring Your presence to our cities in an undeniable way we pray!

In Jesus name...AMEN

...and they said, "The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God."... 1 Kings 18:39

When the Church was birthed on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2, multiple languages were heard declaring the "wonderful works of God." Each Jew who had returned to Jerusalem from faraway lands marveled at how these uneducated Galileans were able to speak fluently in their home language and dialect. The majesty of God was displayed that day not because of the abilities of men, but because of an encounter with God in correlation to the obedience of 120 Christ followers.

John and William McGee, one brother a Methodist and the other a Presbyterian, were moved to weeping during the Red River Communion services of 1800. As John called on the congregants to "submit to God," a loud wail was heard from a woman who moments before had been shouting and singing. William reminded John that in this form of a meeting, emotionalism of this nature was not normally allowed. Immediately, the Holy Spirit overwhelmed John. In that moment the religious traditions were overcome with such a mighty manifestation of God's presence that the entire gathering erupted in spontaneous praise as people began to fall to the floor under the heaviness of God's glory. For more than a year, these services continued on, moving from church to church, from city to city, and from state to state throughout Appalachia, until finally as many as 25,000 gathered together in Cane Ridge, KY. Through these "Camp Meeting" assemblies, the nation experienced the majestic nature of God's overwhelming presence.

God proved Himself at the cross, at the empty tomb, in the upper room, and yet again in the Acts 4 prayer meeting. Throughout the Acts of the Apostles, Christ's disciples showed evidence of God's glory everywhere they went, by both miracle and example. Nearly 1800 years later, God continued to prove Himself in the Appalachian "Camp Meetings." One hundred years after Cane Ridge, God proved Himself yet again at Azusa Street.

Why should we expect the world to come to Christ today without God showing His majesty? How can we adequately declare His majesty if we are not communicating and demonstrating His awesome power? The answer is that for an entire nation to know that the LORD is the only God, it takes more than just a rational argument...it takes the fire of God's presence being seen.

And so we pray:

Almighty Father... We thank You for proving Yourself in the past to draw multitudes to You. Thank You for yesterday's revivals which impacted both Your churches, and the communities around them. We desperately need You to bring revival again! We cry out for another move of Your glory to touch down in our cities!

Forgive us for settling for less than Your majesty, and challenge us to expect greater manifestations! Remind us that You are the same yesterday, today and forever! If You confirmed Your word through signs and wonders both 2,000 and 200 years ago, we can expect You to do it again!

Cause the people to declare Your majesty again we pray!

In Jesus name...AMEN

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

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

And he went up, and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And Elijah said, "Go again seven times." And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, "Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand"

1 Kings 18:43-44

"Look toward the sea..." Elijah had said. Look toward the distant waters. Look toward the place where both torrential downpours and soft rains originate. Look toward hope. But the servant saw nothing. The skies having been barren for three and a half years showed no signs of change. How often in prayer do we hear "look" but yet eyes of flesh see only the same problems that drove us to our knees to begin with?

Building on our faith, we continue to pray. It is not because of, or in spite of, the weather report. We continue to pray because of the sound we have heard...an abundant rain is on the way. We realign our prayers with the Kingdom mission, and we press on. We keep on praying because we know with certainty this is what the Father desires to bring to pass...birthed in the earth through ceaseless prayer.

We are like the widow in Chapter 18 of Luke's Gospel. She continued to plead her case even when no one would listen. She knew her case was just. She believed her persistence could persuade even a corrupt judge. And so she continued to wear down the judge with her continual complaint until a favorable ruling was reached...something that would have been a cultural abnormality.

Jesus said that our Father is much more attentive to the prayers of His children than the unjust judge was to the request of the widow. Christ told the story to remind us to pray always and not give up. Then He asked this one question, "Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). In this passage, Christ equated our faith with continual prayers...prayers that continue until the case is won!

Seven times Elijah prayed...seven times the servant looked. Finally, one small cloud began to move in. Even in smallness, that one cloud was like the tip of an iceberg. The prayers were answered. The rain was on its way.

And so we pray:

Heavenly Father...Righteous Judge... We come before You asking for a deluge of Your favor over our land. We have been in drought for so long, the generation rising up has never known the days of prosperity we once lived in. Please hear our case and send Your mercy!

Add our prayers to the countless prayers of others throughout our region. Encourage us all to continue in prayer and not lose heart! You hear, and have heard, every prayer lifted up for us! Your promise is coming!

We have heard the sound, and now we expect to see the cloud. We expect Your blessing to rain down so deep that we will be carried by the waves of Your presence!

In Jesus name we pray, and continue to pray...AMEN

FIRE FALL

Day 21: Keep Us Running

*And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah;
and he girded up his loins, and ran ... 1 Kings 18:46*

Elijah outran the chariots of Ahab. Then, when Jezebel sought to kill him, he ran ahead a day's journey. After all the running, Elijah was depressed to a dangerous point. God sent him food and caused him to rest and regain his strength in preparation for a forty day journey...Elijah was being revived so he might run again (See Chapter 19).

After those forty days, Elijah arrived at Mount Horeb. He had completed one mountain top experience only to be confronted with another. However this mountain was different. It was there that the Law was received, thus, Horeb represented the default for covenant (as is still the case for Israel today). This mount was also where the Levitical Priesthood was installed; as such it was the default for intercession. Yet before Horeb was either a place of covenant or intercession, it was the place of God's encounter with Moses in the burning bush, thus it was also the default for those anointed with prophetic leadership.

There is much to be said for Elijah's time at Horeb. God sent fire, wind and earthquake but did not communicate through any of these. It was in the still small voice that God confronted Elijah's depression and fears. But what we must understand is this: God did not bring Elijah out of the pits so he could stop running...He revived Elijah's inner man to give him new directions to run in. Not only did he instruct Elijah how to run, but he gave directions on how successive generations would continue to run beyond him.

When we default we fall back on the cross. Our covenant, intercession and prophetic understanding all flow from the completed work Christ did at Calvary. As we run, He runs through us. When our time of running comes to an end, He will continue running through those who follow us. For this reason, we do not want a revival that dies with us. We want an encounter that keeps us running until the day we leave this world, but also inspires a new generation to run when we are gone. Only then can this new generation operate in a double anointing.

And so we pray:

Father...Let Your Holy Spirit keep us running! When we are weary, give us rest. When we are low, lift us up. But never let us stop running! Until the day we are gathered to the cloud of witnesses, our job continues to be to run with and for You!

We run with the Gospel! We run with Your grace! We run with Your power! We run with Your presence! We run with patience the race before us! But we never take our eyes off You!

In Jesus' name, the Author and Finisher of our faith, we pray...AMEN