

It's Time To Get Your Rear In Gear!

1 Kings 18:17-41

17. When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?"

18. "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the LORD's commands and have followed the Baals.

19. Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

20. So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel.

21. Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing.

22. Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the LORD's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets.

23. Get two bulls for us. Let them choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it.

24. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire--he is God." Then all the people said, "What you say is good."

25. Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire."

26. So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "O Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

27. At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened."

28. So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed.

29. Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

30. Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which was in ruins.

31. Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Your name shall be Israel."

32. With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed.

33. He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood."

34. "Do it again," he said, and they did it again. "Do it a third time," he ordered, and they did it the third time.

35. The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

36. At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.

37. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

38. Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

39. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The LORD--he is God! The LORD--he is God!"

40. Then Elijah commanded them, "Seize the prophets of Baal. Don't let anyone get away!" They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there.

41. And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain."

"How long will you waver between two opinions?"

Between = in the middle (neutral)

Tell your neighbor, "There is no power in Neutral! It's time to get your rear in gear!"

A church in neutral is as useless and powerless as a car without an engine!

And Jesus said in Mark 16:15 - "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

That's why Eph. 6:13-14 says, "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after

you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then,..."

Pr. 14:14 - The faithless will be fully repaid for their ways, and the good man rewarded for his.

KJV - The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.

Satan accomplishes his greatest work when the church falls into the sleep of indifference, apathy and neutrality.

The Power of God follows Passion for God!

If there is true passion there is commitment, there is discipline, there is patience, there is sacrifice.

The greatest display of passion ever seen is the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In the world: People will go anywhere and do anything for something that they are passionate about!

1. Elijah had Revelation:

Root word: Reveal – "to lay open to view"

That means you have to see something other people don't see... you have to have the ability to see the end before you begin!

David had Revelation: He could see Goliath lying headless on the ground before he ever put that rock in his sling!

1 Sam. 17:45-47

45. David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

46. This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.

47. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

Somebody here today needs to get a revelation of the will and plan of God for your life, You need to see yourself as God sees you, You need to lift your eyes above present circumstances and get a vision of divine destiny.

You want passion? Ask God to show you your purpose, Your destiny

2. Elijah had an expectation:

Today God wants to raise your level of expectation,

Expectation is the breeding ground for Manifestation!

3. Elijah had Desperation:

His life depended upon God answering by fire!

If fire did not fall Elijah would die!

4. Elijah had a resignation:

God is looking for some people who have some GRIT...

Grounded Rightly In Truth

Elijah had his mind made up: If I die let me die in the service of the Lord!

"No more neutral... It's time get your rear in gear!

**1 Kings 18:33a - He arranged the wood*

KJV - And he put the wood in order:

Listen, God loves you, but He cannot use you or bless you until you bring your life in order!

You must line your life up with the Word of God!

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is

your reasonable service.

1 Kings 18:32a - With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD

** Elijah rebuilt the altar:*

The alter represents intimate time spent with God.

If you don't breathe in the natural you die...

If you don't breathe spiritually = (Pray and receive a Word from Him) You will die in your spirit.

1 Kings 18:32b - and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed.

**He dug a trench around the altar:*

Hosea 10:12 - Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.