**Purpose: Seeking the Lord Beyond the Natural**

**Introduction:** Where do we go? What do we do when things do not go our way when failure reaches us? Do we give up, or do we move forward? Our consciences will tell us to stop or go. The key is to be still and find Him in prayer in His Word the Bible. Fellowship,

**Subject:** Be still and find Him in prayer.

**Text:** 1 Kings 19:11-13 "And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?"

**Overview:** The life of Elijah is the life of a person who experiences a move of God. "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are" (James 5:17). In other words, he was just an ordinary man with an extraordinary ministry, which is why we see him in a cave seeking answers. Has God passed me by?

**A. What brought Elijah to the cave of despair?**

1. The letter from the Queen.
	* "Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, so let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time" (1 Kings 19:2).

**B. The battle is not only Physical but Mental.**

1. Jezebel is known to be married to King Ahab; under his rule, she convinced the king to worship other gods, killing the prophets of Israel. In other words, she came to Steal, Kill, and Destroy Israel.
	* Her next target was Elijah.
	* She got mad after the death of her false religious leaders.
	* Elijah stood strong.
		+ "And Elijah said to them, Take the prophets of Baal. Do not let one of them escape. And they took them. And Elijah brought them down to the torrent Kishon and killed them there" (1 Kings 18:40).
2. Everything was going well; victory was in the hand of the Lord.
	* Everything was great until this Messager came with a letter that was signed and sealed the warrant for the death of the Man of God.
	* "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are" (James 5:17).
	* Even Elijah had his hardships, to the point of running away.
		+ "And he said, I have been very zealous for Jehovah the God of Hosts. For the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, thrown down Your altars, and have slain Your prophets with the sword. And I, I alone, am left. And they seek to take my life away" (1 Kings 19:10).

**C. Solitude can be your enemy or your friend.**

1. Solitude can be a place the enemy can use to discourage you from the Lord.
	* Loneliness and Isolation: Reduced Partnership and Revolution: Emotional and Psychological Stress.
2. Solitude as a Friend:
	* Creativity and Productivity.
	* Self-Reflection and Personal Growth.
	* Problem Solving.

**So, what is the balance?**

1. What did Elijah do? He hid in a cave but not from God.
	* He answered the Lord when He spoke to him.
	* "And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?" (1 Kings 19:9).
2. He would have never found out without fellowship with God.
	* Knowing from where the word of the Lord will come from.

**D. The Lord may not speak to us the way we would expect Him to.**

1. Wind, Earthquake, Fire. No... in a Still, small voice.
	* "And after the fire a still small voice" (1 Kings 19:12).
	* When you have isolated yourself, and you say to yourself, I want God to speak to me this way with a sign, Wind, Earth, Fire. You look for a sign from nature. I am not saying He can’t; I am saying why should He when we have His word, The Bible.
	* How about that voice that could be coming in a phone text from a friend saying, "Hey, let's get together and fellowship."
	* Or an invitation to a Bible study class. Or reminding you about church service.
	* Or a phone call to talk and, at times, to listen. And be blessed by a phone call.

**E. What is the right thing when we end up in a cave?**

1. Stay in unity with the Lord, do not push away the Holy Spirit.
2. And stay in unity with the people of the church.
	* "Yet I will leave 7,000 [survivors] in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed down to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him" (1 Kings 19:18).
	* Elijah would have never heard this news unless he was willing to keep moving forward.
	* It’s never over when your heart is in the right place with God. Elijah’s heart was in the right place. He needed to be reminded to see beyond Jezebel's letter. It is not over until the Lord says it’s over.

**Conclusion:** In this world, we will have tribulations, trials, ups and downs. However, you want to call it. But Jesus said, "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

**Emotions:** Because we are humans, we can’t escape from feelings, from being hurt emotionally, from hardships and failures. The temptation is to run and hide, pulling away from the community, the church, and friends. And when you find yourself in these times, what is your plan of attack? Elijah was broken but not defeated. He ran, but not from God; he expected a sign but heard a calm voice from God.

**A. Hear it today, His voice in these two scriptures.**

1. "Let your conversation be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).
2. "So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Hebrews 13:6).

Let Him speak to you with His Word, The Holy Bible.

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