



## ~ Winds, Earthquakes, and Fires ~

*“And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” – 1 Kings 19:12-13*

Elijah had just witnessed one of the most powerful showdowns of God’s power. He saw the beginnings of a mighty revival grip the hearts of the people as they stood on Mount Carmel and declared the Lord as God over any other god. (1 Kings 18) In fact, this event is where our expression “a mountain-top experience” comes from.

However, the next day reality set in for Elijah when Jezebel, furious over the loss of her pagan prophets and priests, sent a message to him threatening his life. In his moment of fear, doubt and deep discouragement set in. By Jezebel’s action, it seemed to Elijah to be evidence that everything just done on Mount Carmel would be for naught. Israel would not change and his prayers for a national revival would not be answered. So, in despair and fear over his circumstances Elijah ran.

God always looks with mercy and compassion upon His ministering servants and He sustained Elijah thru his journey, even feeding him and allowing him to rest along the way. (1 Kings 19:5-8) God had a lesson He wanted to teach Elijah and in turn, teach us.

After entering a cave on Mount Horeb, God called Elijah out to come speak with Him. When Elijah came out, gale-force winds seemed to surround him and then they passed by him. But God was not in that mighty wind. An earthquake rumbled and tore at the mountain, and after the earthquake, fire. But God wasn’t in those either. Instead, Elijah heard a still, small voice and knew that was God’s voice.

God’s first question to him was “Why are you here?” Elijah’s response is so like our own. He based his reality on his thoughts and feelings of his circumstances instead of looking at them with divine eyesight. “Lord, I’ve been working very hard for you. But no one is listening or paying attention. Their hearts are still against you and I’m the only one left alive following you. And now they seek my life too.” (vs. 14 - Kimberly’s paraphrase)

God's response was poignant, *"Really, Elijah? Guess what? I have 7,000 people in Israel you don't know about who are devoted to Me too. I'm in this and I'm sending you out again to finish what I've started thru you."* (vs. 15 – 18 Kimberly's paraphrase)

Here is the lesson God was telling Elijah: "Don't look at the wind, earthquakes, and fires that surround you. I'm not in them. My Word stands above them. Do not listen to them. The hurricane winds, earthquakes, and fires represent all those voices, circumstances, and trials that bring thoughts and feelings contrary to My covenant promise to you and they have one thing in common – they destroy or move you off course. Not so with me. I came so that all may have life and have it abundantly." (*John 10:10*)

The enemy uses circumstances to target our thoughts and feelings to destroy our hold on God and cause us to forget He is God and is mighty to save. That's why the apostle Paul said, *"Cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."* – 2 Cor. 10:5 Let God have those winds, earthquakes, and fires in your life. Let Him renew your thoughts and feelings so that you can hear His sweet, peaceful voice that brings life and life abundantly. Let Him teach you how to hear His still, small voice over the sound of the destroyer. Just like Elijah, His promise to you will stand and not fail.

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