

KINGDOM ADVANCING PRAYER

Mark: 1:35 & Matt: 11: 11-12

From the desk of Elder Michael Scantlebury

Mt. Carmel Re-Visited

Today we want to re-visit Mt. Carmel and the life of Elijah in order to extract some principles that we can implement in our Kingdom Advancing Prayer. In the book of James we read the following:

“Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.”
James 5:17-18

It is only as we read James’ insight into the life of the awesome prophet of God that we could understand the dynamics that were at work in the activities of Elijah. The King James Version declares that **“Elijah was a man subject to like passions just as we are”** and it was from that dimension he prayed! What an awesome encouragement to us! He was just like us! There were no special characteristics about his life! He was not “superman” he was normal! However, let us journey back into time and re-visit Elijah’s Mt. Carmel experience and import them into our operating systems NOW!

1 Kings 18: 1-46

This chapter begins with the Lord instructing Elijah to present himself to Ahab, because He, the Lord was about to send rain to Israel. This was due to the fact that Elijah had prophesied a drought upon the land, as the people of Israel were worshipping Baal, the god that controlled the weather. Elijah just like Moses hit at the very heart of the false system that the people were trusting in.

“How much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.” Proverbs 16:16

Elijah was not a trained weatherman and it was Baal that controlled the weather patterns in the heart of the people. So then Elijah touched the very nerve of the society in his day – he declared that he would turn on

and off the weather – that is true spiritual governmental authority, which was wrapped up in his prayer.

He was just completely dependent upon the Lord and very confident in the Word of the Lord.

We can do the very same thing that **Elijah did**, if we have the same spirit that he had. In order for this to happen we should not live in the realm of “cannot” nor can we suffer from any form of “low self esteem”.

Elijah declared to Ahab that the climate was about to change and that rain was about to fall! He first made the declaration to Ahab because he had the word of the Lord in his mouth, but he did not stop there!

He then destroyed the very foundation of the inhabitants' hope for weather pattern changes. He destroyed the fifty prophets that represented the strength of Baal and returned the hearts of the Israelites back to the true and living God (1Kings 18:38-40).

He then **went up** to the highest point of Mt. Carmel and PRAYED, while Ahab **went up** to eat and drink (verse 42) the scripture warns us about these kind of nobles (**Ecclesiastes 10:16-17**)

1 Kings 18:42-46

There are about five important principles that we can glean from this experience.

1. We see Elijah taking up the posture of the Jewish woman when they were about to give birth. He bowed down on the ground and placed his head between his knees. In like manner we need to know that this is the posture we are to adopt in the spirit. We are birthing something for the Lord in this territory, and it will take some labor similar to that of childbirth!
2. He had his servant helping him in the birth process; he was not bringing this move to pass all alone, even though that spirit tried to attack him earlier (verse 22). We need to get as many committed persons as possible involved in the birthing process. This move is not to be limited to one church or one group!
3. He sent his servant seven times to see if what he was praying for was being manifested in the natural. There are two important lessons here:
 - There must be tangible evidence to what we are praying for. We must not just be able to identify it in the spirit realm and not see it manifested in the natural, otherwise we will become “spooky” or just mere “spiritual technicians”.
 - We must be able to pray a thing through to completion. “Seven times” represent completion, Elijah was willing to push and push until the move of God was born with the evidence of “rain clouds”. We need to push and push until the move of God comes. Whatever “seven times” represent for us we must stick to it. Tenacity must be one of our favorite words in this season.
4. Elijah's confidence was so strong that all he needed was the initial evidence of the move of God for him to make the entire journey, and not to be entrapped in the “move”. As soon as he saw a cloud as big as a man's fist he came down and went unto the next stage, and it was at that point the supernatural power of God overtook him, he overtook Ahab who was riding in chariots while Elijah was on foot (verses 44-46).
5. We need to discern at what point we need to take our journey to the next level, as it is there we will receive the supernatural power of God for completion. We are not to hang around our successes but press that advantage to the next level; we are never to become complacent in the move of God.