

LET GOD ARISE!

Revival
Prayer Guide #4
Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis



Let God Be God: Revival under Elijah 1 Kings 18

“Eighty and six years have I now served Christ, and he has never done me the least wrong; how, then, can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?”

~ Polycarp (c.69-c.155-160. Bishop of Smyrna and martyr, the dear Christian leader who according to Eusebius, the church historian, was commanded by the Roman Proconsul to swear allegiance to Caesar. The above statement was Polycarp's reply when ordered to reproach Christ and be set free from his imprisonment.)

The Divine Perfections

How shall I praise th' eternal God,
That Infinite Unknown?
Who can ascend his high abode,
Or venture near his throne?

The great invisible! He dwells
Conceal'd in dazzling light:
But his all-searching eye reveals
The secrets of the night.

Those watchful eyes that never sleep,
Survey the world around;
His wisdom is the boundless deep,
Where all our thoughts are drown'd.

He knows no shadow of a change,
Nor alters his decrees;
Firm as a rock his truth remains,
To guard his promises.

Justice, upon a dreadful throne,
Maintains the rights of God;
While mercy sends her pardons down,
Bought with a Savior's blood.

Now to my soul immortal King,
Speak some forgiving word;
Then 'twill be double joy to sing
The glories of my Lord.

~ Isaac Watts. *Hymns and Spiritual Songs, Book II, #166*



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1 Kings 18.20-21 - So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. [21] And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word.

Deut. 4.35 - To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord is God; there is no other besides him.

Matt. 10.38 - And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Matt. 16.24-26 - Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. [25] For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. [26] For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life?”

Mark 10.21 - And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”

Luke 9.23-25 - And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. [24] For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. [25] For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?”

2 Tim. 3.12 - Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.



Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV)

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Matt. 6.24 - No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Rom. 6.16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? [17] But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, [18] and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

1 Cor. 10.21-22 - You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. [22] Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

2 Cor. 6.14-16 - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? [15] What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? [16] What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

Rev. 3.15-16 - I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! [16] So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

Josh. 24.15-18 - And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But



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as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. [16] Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, [17] for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. [18] And the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

Matt. 10.37 - Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Luke 14.27-28 - Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. [28] For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?

1 Cor. 16.22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come!

1 Cor. 4.9-13 - For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. [10] We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. [11] To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, [12] and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; [13] when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.



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Gal. 2.20 - It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Gal. 6.14 - But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

1 Pet. 4.1 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.

1 Pet. 4.13 - But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

Rev. 2.10 - Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. ■

WALTER C. Kaiser, Jr. in his wonderful look piece on revival entitled *Quest for Renewal* (Chicago: Moody Press, p.65) describes the situation that Elijah found himself in during the turbulent times of the nation when this revival in 1 Kings 18 broke out:

Fifty-eight years had passed since the kingdom was ripped apart in 931 B.C. At that time the glorious united kingdom, which had lasted for well nigh a full century with all the splendor of the reigns of David and Solomon, was divided into two southern and ten northern tribes. Subsequently things had not gone all that well, especially for the northern ten tribes. During this relatively brief time, the northern tribes



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had been ruled over by seven kings: Jeroboam, the installer of the two calves designed to replace the worship of Yahweh (1 Kings 12:28-32); Nadab, who walked in the sins of his father, Jeroboam (1 Kings 15:22); Baasha, who murdered Nadab (1 Kings 15:27); Elah, a drunkard and murderer (1 Kings 16:8-9); Zimri, who was guilty of treason (1 Kings 16:20); Omri, a military adventurer who did "worse than all who were before him" (1 Kings 16:25-26); and finally Omri's son, Ahab, who did more evil than all who were before him. It was Ahab who married the infamous Jezebel, daughter of the king of Sidon (1 Kings 16:30-31). These were not the best of times politically. Neither were they the best of times spiritually, for the nation had been won over to the worship of the Canaanite gods, especially Baal. The decline of national and spiritual strength was enough to make any God-fearing person weep. But where was that remnant?

Where was the remnant? The same question that plagued Elijah still plagues the Church of Jesus Christ today. In the midst of one of the most confusing, turbulent, and yet pivotal times in the history of the American church, where is the remnant of men and women whose hearts are turned towards God, who refuse to bow to the idol of Baal, who desire to see God in a new, fresh, and empowering way?

Now is the time for a new generation to beg God for new grace, for a fresh manifestation of his power and glory, for pardon for our sin and foolishness, and for zeal for the Gospel and the Kingdom. At a time when the entire nation seemed locked in idolatry and selfishness, the prophet Elijah asked God to demonstrate that he and he alone was God, that the gods of the nations were but idols, and that he still was working in the midst of his covenant community.

Such a time is our time; as brother Kaiser suggests, "It is high time that we in our day let God be God." In order to get the attention of his people of



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old, God withheld rain, judged the idolaters, and raised up prophets to proclaim his Word. In the same way, we must ask our God to demonstrate tangibly in our midst that he and he alone is the Lord, that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah, and that the Church of Jesus Christ is called to proclaim the Kingdom come till it is consummated at our Lord's soon return.

Let us not be stubborn and hard like Israel of old, who failed to respond to the pleas of God despite his merciful and faithful actions to draw their attention back to him (cf. Jer. 5.3: O Lord, do not your eyes look for truth? You have struck them down, but they felt no anguish; you have consumed them, but they refused to take correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to repent.) Let us humble ourselves before the Lord, seek his pardon, readily admit our guilt before him, and ask him to reveal his power.

Do not be either dismayed or afraid if you find yourself a lonely prophet in the midst of the people of God. The prophetic voice is often an ignored one; who but the Lord understands all the agonies of Elijah's heart in pleading for fervency and repentance to a people whose hearts had grown callous due to idolatry, greed, and oppression? God answered the challenge of Elijah, outnumbered 450 false Baal prophets to himself. Yet, God demonstrated through his own power who in fact represented his interests and who was on his side. The revelation of God on Mt. Carmel is testimony that the God of heaven knows those who belong to him, and will work on behalf of those who remain faithful to him, even in the face of rejection, misunderstanding, and persecution.

So, let us this month ask God to rain fire on the altar, even as he did for Elijah that day on Mt. Carmel. Let's plead with the Lord to demonstrate in our midst for all to see that he is in fact the Lord God, our Maker and Redeemer, who has sent his Son into the world to establish an eternal



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Kingdom and who will never forsake his own. As the people fell prostrate before the Lord when the fire fell on the altar, may we fall prostrate before him today, and may we ask for the cleansing fire of his Spirit on us, our churches, our families, our neighborhoods, and our cities. Let us cry with the people of old that “Yahweh, he is God; Yahweh, he is God!” (cf. 1 Kings 18.39). Let us admit no rivals, consider no substitutions, embrace no other loyalties. May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ receive glory in us this month as we plead with him to demonstrate his power in our midst, and may we through the Spirit let God be God in us. ■

Example of Brokenness before the Lord That Allows Him to Reveal Himself Fully: Elijah

1 Kings 18.36-37 - And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. [37] Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.”

Biblical Principle of the Month

Revival comes when a prepared people witness the cleansing power of God in such a way that they yield to him without reservation so that in all areas of their lives God can be God. Only when in contrition and prostration we offer ourselves up to him on his own terms can we experience the extraordinary power of revival in our community.

Deut. 32:39 - See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.



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1 Sam. 2.2 - There is none holy like the Lord; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

Isa. 44.6 - Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god."

Isa. 44.8 - Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.



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