



Sharing

Elijah Prayer Discipleship School

Becoming an instrument of prayer

Building Fathers House
A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

www.buildingfathershouse.org

(Discipleship=doing the will of God walking in submission of the authority of God so that you can become a instrument of authority)

Workshop no.1 : Elijah's secret.

1 Kings 17:1 “.... As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, before Whom I stand, there shall not be dew or rain these years but according to My Word.”

Purpose of workshop : To look into the secret behind the prayer-life of Elijah as stated in James 5:16 “... the earnest prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available”

Intended Goal: To understand the secret behind the power of prayer as exercised by the believer through a lifestyle of prayer.

Scripture readings:

1 Kings 17:1 “.... As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, before Whom I stand, there shall not be dew or rain these years but according to My Word.”

1 Kings 18:36 “....Elijah the prophet came near and said, O Lord, the 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.”

Isaiah 6:8 “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send? Then said I here am I : send me.”

Luke 1:19 “and the angel replied to him. I am Gabriel, I stand in the very presence of God, and I have been sent to talk to you and to bring you this good news.”

James 5:16 “Confess to one another therefore your faults and pray for one another, that you may be healed and restored. The earnest prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available.”

Some definitions in accordance to the Hebrew and Greek words to assist in our understanding :

Before Whom I stand = In Who's presence I stand (before Who's face I stand)

earnest prayer = power to be at work within us

righteous man = a man that do according to the will of God (that do obey the commandments of God)

James 5:16 the last part can read as follow, bearing in mind the above mentioned.

"...The earnest prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available" = to release the power of God working within us in an act of obedience as we adhere to God's call.

Food for thought : In considering the secret behind the prayer-life of Elijah, I would like you as a group to consider the following thoughts regarding the secret of Elijah's prayer life.

Submission one to another with dedicated obedience will automatically cause you to be exalted to a **position of authority**. (Ponder on this in relating it to God and man, think about Jesus and His Father) Jesus said that He speaks everything the Father tells Him to say and that He does everything His Father shows Him to do. (*That is to release the power of God working within us in an act of obedience*) As illustrated obedience brings authority.

God's authority is exercised in obedience to the Words of God. God's authority is in the ability of His Word to come to pass (Isaiah 55).

Isaiah 6:8 is the response of a man who found himself overhearing the voice of God "whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

In considering the above mentioned, we can state that the secret of Elijah's prayer life was found in his own proclamation when he stood before Ahab and said "As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand" in the mentioned statement he did not only state that God is a living God but also that he stand in the presence of God and therefore speak not of himself but speak as he hear from God. The mentioned remind us of Gabriel send as a messenger to Zechariah to declare the Word's of God and in his defence he said "I am Gabriel that stand in the presence of God". He said to Zechariah I do not speak on the basis of my authority but on the basis of the authority of the One in Whose presence I stand, and as Elijah he acted on the command of God therefore he spoke in boldness.

The test of submission to God's Word (as you submit to God's Word you have authority to carry it out.)

Man can choose to carry out God's Word or not. Angels are subject to God's Word. The devil and demons are subject to God's Word. The human body is subject to God's Word. Animals are subject to God's Word. Inanimate objects are subject to God's Word. Man was to be subdued by nobody but God and His Word. Man's authority has been completely recovered by Jesus through the new covenant!!! Jesus Christ the man is seated on the right hand of God, to reign with God as God intended from the beginning, we are the body of Jesus to enforce His victory and God's will on earth. We are called brothers and heirs to Christ. " ... that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and in the Prophets and in the Psalms about Me." In His authority we are called to be His agents of change, ambassadors or knights of His Kingdom, who carry the same authority as the One we represent. - but we are only the instrument that act in obedience – as Jesus said "He send us as the Father send Him" - in obedience.

True Story: In considering the true story of a man who worked as a cleaner in a big firm we can learn a lot. The story is that the man was employed as a cleaner, but he did not regard his position only as a cleaner but as an employer to the use of his employee. So when all the other employees left he would stay around to offer his service to the employer, willing to do anything he asked. Sometime he would just wait on the employer to be at his use whenever there is a need. After some time the man was promoted from one position to a higher position until he became the general manager. **Like wise we must position ourselves in the presence of God to be willing to do anything as He ask, in the likeness of Jesus we must not consider our position.**

Philippians 2 : 6-8 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Isaiah was like the man in the story of the cleaner, he just waited in the presence of God until he overheard the call of God – and because of his position he could respond in obedience to the call of God, likewise when Elijah stood before Ahab, he stood in obedience to deliver a message he heard from God, while in God presence.

God's authority :

Palms 65 : 4 Blessed is the man whom Thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in Thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of Thy house, even of Thy holy temple.

Palms 84 : 2 My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

Palms 92 : 13 Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Palms 96 : 8 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto His Name: bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Palms 100 : 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His Name.

Palms 116 : 19 In the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.

Palms 135 : 2 Ye that stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God.

Conclusion :

As James said that the earnest prayer of the righteous man prevail much. Indicating to the power that work within – the power of God – being released through us as we act in obedience. When we act in obedience to the call of God, we become the instrument in the hands of God – we become the prayer.

Powerful prayer starts thus with the awareness of God (being in His presence as we wait to hear His call) and then to release His Words through obedient prayer. (acts of obedience)

The secret of Elijah was therefore found in his message as he said “ As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand” God said to Elijah and Elijah acted with expectancy and being watchful of the result – of what God already said. Likewise was Abrahams faith (trust): “thus saith the Lord.”

True prayer is therefore spending time in the presence of God so that you can overhear Him - as Isaiah overheard God when Isaiah said here I am send me. So that when we hear the call of God we can immediately act in obedience to His call, becoming the instrument in His hands.

Whether or not we hear God's call depend upon the **state of our ears**; and what we hear depends upon our **disposition**. (disposition what are we focused on to hear, the still small voice of God or what? Consider Elijah in 1 Kings 19:11-13) In considering, think about the cleaner, he awaited not considering his position apart from being available to the use of his employer.

Questions to be answered :

1. What does it mean when we say – Whether or not we hear God's call depend upon the state of our ears?
2. What does it mean when we say - What we hear depends upon our disposition?
3. What does it mean when we say – We must become the instrument of prayer?
4. What is the secret to Elijah's prayerlife?
5. What should we do in order to imitate Elijah? (practical implementation)