

Come, Lord Jesus.

- Revelation 12:11- They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”
- John 8:42-44 “If God were your Father, you would love me...Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”
- Revelation 22:18, 20- The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!”...He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon!” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
- One key quality of God is that He is omnipresent, meaning He is everywhere always. There is nowhere we can go where He is not. God is everywhere, God is here.
- So when we pray Come, Lord Jesus come...we are asking for more. We are asking for the manifest presence of God. The power of God. We are asking for the glory and weightiness of God to come. Where the presence of God is so strong that it’s like a fire that burns away all wickedness, it purifies and it empowers.
- God’s manifest presence is often represented by fire. God met Abraham with fire. God met with Moses in a bush set on fire and on top of a mountain engulfed in fire. God led the Israelites with a pillar of fire. Fire came from heaven as God’s glory filled the temple. Jesus baptized with the Holy Spirit and Fire. The disciples on the day of Pentecost had tongues of fire above their heads.
- Fire is beautiful. Fire purifies and consumes. It gives energy and power. Fire changes things.
- Come Lord Jesus, show up in our nation and change it, city, church, and lives in a powerful way, so that things change.
- When I pray this prayer, I mean it with everything in me. But this is what I know, **God doesn’t respond to heartfelt desire alone.**
- You can genuinely desire God with your whole heart, but that doesn’t mean His glory will show up.
- From my study of scripture, I find that- ***There are requirements that must be met in order for the glory of God to appear.***
- Your heart can lead the way, but your feet must follow.
- Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength...but those who love Me obey My commands.
- We can desire God with all our heart, but **there are requirements that must be met in order for the glory of God to appear.**
- Two people who had the same spirit on them. Two heroes in our faith who can show us how to prepare our lives for the fire of God to come and change things.
- Elijah and John the Baptist.

- Elijah was a prophet, man of God in the OT. And during his time, Israel and its King Ahab were living in a state of compromise. They claimed to be the people of YHWH, but at the same time, they served the wicked idol called “Baal”. They built altars and offered sacrifices to worship the false god Baal. Elijah hated this. He despised the idolatry and wickedness that the nation of Israel had fallen to. He hated sin and he spoke against the King and his wife for their sin.
- So Elijah moves away from wickedness and lives in the remote wilderness.
- 2 Kings 1:8- “He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist.”
- He is most famous for a mountain showdown where he gathered the prophets of Baal, the nation of Israel and King Ahab on Mount Carmel.
- 1 Kings 18:21- Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.”
- 1 Kings 18:24- you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire—he is God.”
- 1 Kings 18:37-40- Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.” **38** Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. **39** When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!” **40** Then Elijah commanded them, “Seize the prophets of Baal. Don’t let anyone get away!” They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there.
- Elijah called upon the Lord to show up...and He did. This led to a national revival. The people turned back to the Lord their God. This led to removing the wickedness from the land, the throwing down of idolatry and destroying Jezebel, the king’s satanic wife. **Elijah prepared the way for the glory of God to come.**
- After Elijah’s time on earth, there were prophecies that Elijah would come back.
- Malachi 4:5-6- “See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. **6** He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents...”
- These are the last words of the OT and for hundreds of years, the people waited and looked for Elijah to come back. Because Elijah comes, **before** the Lord. Elijah came, and then fire came. So they want the Lord...but they understand Elijah must come first.
- Over these hundreds of years, Israel loses touch with God. They no longer hear His voice and they make an idol out of the law and their traditions. They fall back into idolatry and sin.
- And after 400 years go by, a woman named Mary becomes pregnant by the Holy Spirit with a boy named Jesus- the Son of God. At the same time, Mary’s cousin, Elizabeth is pregnant with a boy and this is what the angel of God says to the boy’s father...
- Luke 1:13-17- But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. **14** He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, **15** for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. **16** He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. **17** And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of

Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—*to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*”

- Matthew 11:14- And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.
- So...Elijah was not reincarnated, but the spirit of Elijah was upon John.
- He's the cousin of Jesus. He's born **before** Jesus. He starts his ministry before Jesus starts His. John does not drink wine or other fermented drink. He's **filled** with the Holy Spirit... but he **operates** in the spirit and power of Elijah.
- So just like Elijah, John will prepare the way for the glory of God to come. John paves the road for Jesus to come.
- Mark 1:1-8- The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, **2** as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger **ahead** of you, who will prepare your way”— **3** “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” **4** And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. **6** John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.
- Luke 3:15-16- The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. **16** John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”
- The people were yearning for the Messiah, for the glory of God to come. And John prepared the way for that to happen.
- John, like Elijah- lives in the remote wilderness. They both hate sin and idolatry. They both spoke out against it boldly. They both called the people to return to the Lord their God by repenting. They even wore the same clothes. John and Elijah prepared the way for God to come. They cleared the path for the Lord to show up in a powerful way and change things.
- We need the fire of God, the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire. We need Jesus to come. To purify and empower, and change things. But ***There are requirements that must be met in order for the glory of God to appear.*** The way must be prepared. The road must be paved!
- Just like John was filled with the Holy Spirit but operated in the spirit of Elijah- we too must be filled with the Holy Spirit and operate in the spirit of Elijah...if we long to see Jesus come to our nation.
- We can't just desire Jesus, we must make way for Him. How do we do this?
- First, like Elijah and John, we must be desert people. Elijah and John lived in the remote wilderness.
- We must live set apart from the wickedness around us. We must live different than everyone else.
- While everyone else was walking on smooth roads and socializing, Elijah and John were living differently in the rugged wilderness. While everyone else was wearing clothes made of fine linen, Elijah and John were clothed in camel hair and a leather belt. While everyone else was eating fancy fruit and meat, Elijah was eating meat from the beaks of ravens and John was eating locust and honey.
- These men lived differently. And if we want to see the Lord, we too must live different.

- Hebrews 12:14- “without holiness no one will see the Lord.”
- If we want to see the Lord, then we must be holy.
- What is holiness? It’s defined as being set apart. Living differently. That means we speak differently than everyone else. We think differently. We see the world differently. We do relationships differently. We are different. What entertains us is different than what entertains the world. What we spend our time doing is different than what the world spends their time doing.
- If we look around and see a bunch of people living the same way we do...we may not be that different and we probably aren’t holy.
- 1 Peter 2:9 says we are God’s special possession, a peculiar people.
- Leviticus 10:10- You are to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean.”
- To be holy means you are set apart **from** the common and set apart **to** the Lord.
- That means my eyes are meant to see the things of God. My ears are meant to hear the things of heaven. My mouth is set apart to talk about the things of God. My desires, plans, my time, my money, my life...set apart to the Lord. It’s different than the norm, from what is common.
- If we want Jesus to come, we must be holy- a desert people.
- 2. We must throw down idols.
- Today idolatry looks much different than it did in Bible times but the heart is the same, idolatry is serving other things. Turning things into gods.
- During Elijah’s time, the people were still worshipping God...but also Baal. They’re hearts were divided. Their time and focus was divided. Their sacrifices were divided.
- 1 Kings 18:21- Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” Sides, ways, choices.
- We need to ask ourselves the same thing. How long will we waver between the 2? If Jesus is God, follow Him. But if politics is god, social media is god, money is god...follow it!
- We need to ask ourselves- where are the idols in my life? Where am I divided? Splitting time with God and... Is your marriage god? Are kids, sports, career, health god, physical appearance, status and ego, house, cars, and clothes?
- What are you serving?! What’s dividing you and stealing your full heart and devotion to Jesus? Who else’s approval are you fighting for?
- If we want Jesus to show up in power and change things in our lives and in this city and nation, we’ve got to be willing to make some changes first!
- Joshua 24:15- But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”
- By tearing down idols, we prepare the way of the Lord to come.
- The 3rd way that we can prepare the way for Jesus to come, is to live a life of repentance. Elijah and John called the people to repent, but first, they demonstrated it themselves.
- Repentance means to turn. Turning toward God...and in doing so, you turn away from sin.

- Sin is all around us, and as long as we're breathing, there's a sin nature that's a part of us that we must actively fight against and put to death daily.
- It doesn't matter how old you are, there's still a sin nature in you. Just because you repented once, doesn't mean you don't need to keep on repenting. In order for us to continue to see God, we must live a lifestyle of repentance.
- Luke 3:8- Produce fruit in keeping with repentance." -John the Baptist
- We must keep up with it. Keep on doing it. Keep on walking toward Jesus. Every time we sin, every time we miss the mark- we repent.
- Do we feel sorry when we sin against God and people? Absolutely. But that's not all. David Guzik says, "Repentance speaks of a change of direction, not a sorrow in the heart."
- To feel bad and to change direction are two different things. Are you making changes in your life? Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to correct you on sin and then following His lead away from that place?
- Psalm 139:23-24- Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends(grieves) you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life."
- 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1- For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." Therefore, "Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." And, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.
- For those who long to see Jesus come, there must be no compromise. We must offer our hearts to God and ask Him to search us and point out anything that offends Him. And then, we repent.
- This nation needs God! And this nation needs us to step up be desert people. People who are holy and different; set apart to God. Your family needs God. And your family needs you to throw down your idols. To lead the way in undivided devotion to Jesus.
- You and I need Jesus to change us. But we also need to be a people who change our direction; a people who produce fruit in keeping with repentance.
- 1 Corinthians 11:28-29- Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. **29** For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves."