

gods At War
Part 3—gods of Pleasure
1 Kings 18

- When the gift becomes more important than the giver, that's _____
 - The gods of pleasure often begin as _____ from the Lord God
 - God gives us good gifts out of His love, but too often we find that we're living for _____
 - Without realizing it we find that we're _____ the gods of pleasure

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 16:29—²⁹Ahab son of Omri became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria over Israel 22 years. Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him. (NIV)

1 Kings 17:1—¹As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word. (NIV)

- Elijah said there was going to be a drought . . . and there was a drought that lasted for _____

1. Don't Expect God to _____ His Competition.

- Baal was originally thought of primarily as the god of _____
 - God is _____ His blessing in the very area where they have put a _____ in His place
 - The Israelites were worshipping the god of _____, so God sends a _____
 - It's _____ against _____

1 Kings 18:19-21—¹⁹“Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who

eat at Jezebel's table.” ²⁰So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. ²¹Elijah 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.” But the people said nothing. (NIV)

- God's people said nothing—they wanted _____; they wanted their _____ and _____
 - Instead of having a _____ where God reigns, we often have a _____ where He's asked to share the space with something or someone else

1 Kings 18:25-28—²⁵“Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.” ²⁶So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “O Baal, answer us!” they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made. ²⁷At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.” ²⁸So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. (NIV)

- We have given _____ to the god of pleasure . . . but they always demand more

1 Kings 18:29—²⁹Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention. (NIV)

- There is no response—the gods of pleasure take _____ and give _____

2. God _____ When We Worship.

1 Kings 18:36-39—³⁶At the usual time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, “O

Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant. Prove that I have done all this at your command. ³⁷O Lord, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God and that you have brought them back to yourself.” ³⁸Immediately the fire of the Lord flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench! ³⁹And when all the people saw it, they fell face down on the ground and cried out, “The Lord—he is God! Yes, the Lord is God!” (NLT)

- When Elijah responded correctly to God and worshiped Him and Him alone, _____ and showed that the worship was _____ placed
 - Is _____ waiting for you to throw out the _____ in your life and worship Him only?
 - Is it time for you to burn the _____ that God must share and allow Him to place His _____ in your heart?
 - We must agree with the Israelites when they said, “The Lord—He is God!”—we should fall and worship Him . . . _____!
- What is God waiting for you to _____ so He can give you the _____?

Action Steps . . .

- Ask God which god is taking His place
- Let it go!