

Elijah Part 3 - When Fire Falls

7.12.2026

Big Idea: Wholehearted worship begins when we surrender every rival to the only God who is worthy of our devotion.

1 Kings 18:16–18 Notice what Elijah does...***He separates the symptom from the disease.***

- Their hearts had abandoned God.
- **God loves us too much to simply treat symptoms while leaving the disease untouched.**

Sometimes we're asking God to fix our circumstances while He's inviting us to let Him transform us.

1 Kings 18:19–21 (Israel is trying to worship Yahweh **and** Baal.)

- One of Satan's greatest strategies isn't convincing believers to reject Jesus.

Key Thought #1 - The greatest enemy of wholehearted worship is not unbelief—it is divided allegiance.

1 Kings 18:22–24 (From a human perspective...Elijah is hopelessly outnumbered.)

One man standing with God is always in the majority.

Key Thought #2 Truth is never determined by the size of the crowd, but by the voice of God.

1 Kings 18:25–26 ...Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “Baal, answer us!” they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered.

Key Thought #3 Every idol promises what only God can provide.

1 Kings 18:27-29 ²⁷At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!”...

Key Thought #4 Every false religion says, "You must earn God's acceptance." The gospel declares, "Christ has accomplished it for you."

1 Kings 18:30–35 ³⁰Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me."...

- What God is about to do isn't merely a demonstration. It's an invitation. God is inviting His people back.
- God doesn't merely expose our sin...He invites us home.

Key Thought #5 The God who exposes your sin is the same God who invites you back.

- The enemy specializes in destruction. **God specializes in restoration.**
- Elijah builds an altar with twelve stones because God's covenant hasn't changed.

Key Thought #6 God never forgets the covenant, even when His people do.

- What looks like another obstacle may actually be God setting the stage so that when He moves, everyone knows it was Him.

1 Kings 18:36–37 ³⁶At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed...

- Everything about his prayer is centered on God's glory.

Key Thought #7 God's greatest miracle isn't sending fire—it's turning hearts back to Himself.

1 Kings 18:38–39 - *When God reveals Himself, neutrality is no longer an option.* Because the fire always reveals what the heart has been worshiping.

1 Kings 18:40–46 - But God doesn't stop the story right there...Because this story has never really been about fire...It's been about restoration.

Never underestimate what God can do with a small beginning and a surrendered heart.

Life Point: When we surrender every rival to Christ, God restores what idols could never provide.