



Part 3: Is That Really You?

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1 Kings 19:11-18

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind.

After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴ He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

¹⁵ **The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came... (*emphasis mine*)**

...and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram.¹⁶ Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.¹⁷ Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu.¹⁸ Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him."

**God spoke to Elijah the same way he speaks to us:
continuously and creatively.**

**The voice, direction, and protection of God is often
best seen and heard in hindsight.**

"Remember the former things, those of long ago,
I am God, there is no other,
I am God, there is none like me.

I make known the end from the beginning,
from ancient times, what is still to come.

I say, 'My purpose will stand,
and I will do all that I please.'"

- Isaiah 46:9-10

Joel 2:28-32

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. ³⁰ I will show wonders in the heaven and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ³¹ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. ³² And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The tendency with prophetic gifts is to either misuse or mistrust a legitimate gift that God has given.

Why did I believe that the message Laurel and I received was from God?

It passed the scripture test. (*Titus 1:9 and Revelation 22:18-19*)

It passed the humility test. (*James 4:6*)

It passed the accountability test. (*Hebrews 13:17*)

It passed the accuracy test. (*Isaiah 44:24-26*)

It passed the tone test. (*James 3:17*)

It passed the Spirit test. (*Galatians 5:22*)

In what way has God spoken to you in the past that you are now ready to acknowledge as him?

Small Group Questions

- 1) What is your favorite mode of communication? Conversation, text, hand-written letter, e-mail, Facetime?
- 2) If God told you, “Go back the way you came,” what emotional response would come from you and why?
- 3) Is there a time in your past when God spoke to you but you did not believe it was him? Tell us about it.
- 4) Have you ever received a prophetic word from another person? Did or did it not pass the tests listed above?
- 5) What has God said to you in the past two weeks? How did you know it was him?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now?

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