

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev. Chris Trinhnam

Life & Times of Elijah No 12

24th July 2001

The Spirit of Elijah

Key Verse “. . . *he (John) will go before him (Jesus) in the spirit and power of Elijah. . .*”

Scripture Readings: Luke 1.5-23, Matthew 11.2-15, Matthew 16.13&14,
Matthew 17.1-13, Matthew 27.46-50.

This study is something of a review of our past eleven studies, but it also studies the significance of Elijah's ministry and place in God's plan then, and in Jesus' time and in our own. Do you remember the prayer of Elisha? "I pray you, let me inherit a double share of your spirit." (2 Kings 2.9) That prayer was granted, for we read, for the sons of the prophets at Jericho testified "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.". This same spirit was also upon John the Baptist as our readings tell us.

The spirit of Elijah is none other than the Holy Spirit . Notice these characteristics of John's ministry:

First, he lived and worked in the presence of the Lord going ahead to make the way ready for Him.

Second, he lived a chaste, separated, circumspect life careful to be holy unto the Lord. Something much needed today.

Third, he was filled with the Holy Spirit
"He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb"
Luke 1.15-17

Fourth, he brought many to God in repentance.

Fifth, he was the agent for needed social change and reconciliation.

Can you see these elements in Luke 1.15-17? Did you find them in Elijah. Every Christian has received the gift of the Holy Spirit, and every Christian needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit Acts 2.37-39 Ephesians 5.18

Think of the Mighty Things that God the Holy Spirit Did through Elijah.

Well, the God of Elijah, the God of Elisha and John & Peter is our God too!

First, the God who kept Elijah, can keep us too. Ahab, Jezebel, the prophets of Baal and Satan himself, loneliness, depression and privation could not separate him from his God 1 Peter 1.3-5, Romans 8.31-39.

Second, the God who supplied Elijah can provide for us too. Remember the brook Cherith and the ravens, remember the widow's oil and meal. Look up Matthew 6.26-34 and be encouraged.

Third, just as God worked miracles through Elijah, will also work miracles through us. Remember the raising of the widow's son. Remember the fire which consumed the sacrifice saturated in water. God will do through us the things that He wants to do through us as we stay close to Him through prayer

and the study of His word. Read 1 Corinthians 12.28-29 and Galatians 3.5
Fourth, just as God was ready to answer Elijah's prayers, so He is ready to answer ours. We are privileged to see Elijah at prayer and to hear the words he used, to observe how his prayer was delayed even though God's word had been given, to see him search for the answer, to see how faith works in a mighty man of God. Can we expect that prayer will be easy? No it will be the fervent effectual prayer that achieves results. Let this thought challenge our hearts. We have the promise. God has the power. What of the prevailing. Remember the text, James 5.13-18
Fifth, it also means that the God who was compassionate and understanding with Elijah when he was hopelessly depressed, can also minister to us in our moment of need. For this one see Hebrews 4.6.

When Do You and I Need the 'spirit of Elijah'? When do we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

First, When we are surrounded by scoffers, critics, unbelievers, and the enemies of the Lord. Remember Elijah cried to the Lord, 'Lord, I alone am left!' When you feel all alone and you need to take a stand, to nail your colours to the mast, you need to be

filled with the Holy Spirit. No Christian is ever alone. Jesus is with us right to the end.

Second, When we face problems and difficulties that are too great for us. Think of Elijah raising of the child from the deathbed. When there is just no answer to your difficulty, come for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Third, When we need the sustaining power and supply of God, the God who supplied Elijah through three crippling years of drought. He can supply 'all your need according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus.'

Fourth, When we undertake some service or responsibility for the Lord. For spiritual work can only be done by the Holy Spirit. If the Father did the works in Jesus and Jesus lived by Him, who are we that we should think ourselves sufficient? We must live by Jesus who through the Holy Spirit does the work in us. There is no other way.

Fifth, in moments of illness and in moments of bereavement, at those times when we are hopeless and helpless, we can come to Him.

Last, no not last, when we are tempted and torn by sin, when we are held in the enemy's trap, when we are caught in the vice of evil we come to God for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit and touch the power of God.

Why is living in the fulness of the Holy Spirit so important? See John 16.13-15

Welcome Glen Park Gospel Church
Lower Road, Eltham North
Sundays 10.30 am

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