

The Challenge To See God:

Elijah In The Presence Of God

(1 Kings 19:1-10)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. of woman who has electricity, but only uses it to light her candles. Point: We have resources that we may not use.
 2. Acknowledging the presence of God is one of the greatest strengths we have as we attempt to live successful Christian lives.
 3. Let's examine how acknowledging God's presence will help us in our lives.

I. Background To Elijah & His Situation

- A. Elijah has been a hunted man (1 Kings 18:10-12).
- B. Elijah is accused of being a trouble-maker (1 Kings 18:17).
- C. Elijah stands alone against the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:21).
- D. When Jezebel hears what Elijah had done, she vows to kill Elijah (1 Kings 19:2).
- E. Elijah flees, feeling alone and abandoned, and asks to die (1 Kings 19:4,10).
- F. Questions concerning Elijah.
 1. How had God demonstrated his presence to Elijah?
 - a. Causing no rain, providing food, giving miraculous abilities, victory at Mt. Carmel.
 2. How then can Elijah say he is all alone?
 3. Shouldn't we be willing to serve God for nothing?

II. Consider Several Facts About God's Presence

- A. The Focus of His Presence.
 1. Don't you think that if Elijah had been focusing upon God's presence, he wouldn't have been so depressed and discouraged?
 2. Consider Daniel 3:22-26.
 3. The presence of God distracted their attention away from the flames.
 4. They focused upon God, and not their circumstances.
 5. Note that they didn't run out of the flames, but had to be told to come out of the flames!
- B. The Peace of His Presence.
 1. (Romans 8:28).
 2. Regardless of what happens in life, God takes notice and promises us it will be okay.
- C. The Promise of His Presence.
 1. (Matthew 28:19-20).
 2. (John 14:23).
 3. Living with a sense of his presence will help us live better lives.
- D. The Presence of God: Threat or Comfort?
 1. (Psalm 139).
 2. Whether one is threatened or finds comfort in the presence of God depends upon the way he has chosen to live his life.

- Conclusion:
1. While I don't want to minimize the storms of life that you may be facing, I can assure you that however great that storm may be, there is an anchor for your soul - the abiding presence of God.