

Don't Quit!



Suggested Props: Box Fan, Short piece of 2 x 4 & something to pivot it on [something to simulate an earthquake for a student]

Scripture: [1 Kings 19: 11-12](#)

1 Kings 19: 11-12

And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

Introduction:

Every Christian is tempted to quit or give up at some time in life. Everyone that makes up his/her mind to do God's Will, can have a problem arise that really discourages you and you feel that God is not hearing your prayers.

When you decide to serve and glorify God, you will face resistance and discouragement. When this happens, remember this event in Elijah's life.

God's Voice can be Mighty:

Elijah had just called fire down from Heaven. *[1 Kings 18]* Everyone knew that the power of God was on him! He had just seen the Lord consume the altar he had built; he had successfully slain 450 wicked prophets of Baal. He was experiencing the Mighty Hand of God on his ministry. Revival had come! The enemies of God were on the run.

Elijah was known as the prophet of God in a land full of idol worshippers. He had called for a drought and he had called for the rain. He had seen miracles on his bidding. He had just had one of the most flamboyant displays of God's Might ever recorded in ancient history happen because of his prayer! Elijah was at the peak of his ministry it would seem. He knew God and he knew how to interact with God; He was walking with God!

God's voice is Mighty: Read [Psalm 29: 3-11](#)

Then, almost immediately one wicked, God hating, idol worshipping woman named Jezebel has Elijah heading to the hills to hide. What?! Sounds incredible, doesn't it? He had just had a very public display of God's might come with his one prayer, but now he is running away. Why?

Jezebel, wife of King Ahab, was totally entrenched in her culture and worship of Baal. These pagans sacrificed babies and small children to their "god". This was a very wicked culture without repentance. These were her personal "priests" that had just been humiliated and killed by the One True and Living God. She hated God; therefore she hated Elijah.

And now we see him asking God to kill him because he is giving up. Elijah has told God: **"I QUIT!"**

In modern times we might see Elijah diagnosed with PTSD: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. He had been through a horrific yet victorious event and now he is paying the psychological toll. Jezebel has put a contract out on his life. He folds. Discouragement sets in.

However, God is not through with Elijah yet and He is about to make that clear to His servant. God sends Elijah up on Mount Horeb to a cave so that God can explain something to him.

God's Voice is usually that Still Small Voice:

We like the dramatic: we want to feel powerful by having God do supernatural wonders for us and through us so that everyone will know that WE have God on OUR side.

These times can happen, but they are few. MOST of the time, God speaks to us through the still small voice of the Holy Spirit.

This small voice is changing us and correcting things that seem insignificant to us, but hinder our walk with God. It is through this process that God is turning us into a Holy, Spirit-filled servant that can be used of God.

Activity and "things happening over at our church" does not mean that the Still Small Voice of God is at work.

However, where the Still Small Voice of God is at work, there will be results of souls brought to Jesus and evidence of changed lives.

Do not confuse the two situations.

Read: *1 Kings 19: 11-12 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.*

[Turn on the box fan having it blow up close and personal to a few students.]

Elijah is up on Mount Horeb. God asks him: Why are you here, Elijah? Elijah tells God his sad story of how he has been a willing servant for God and now Jezebel wants him dead. He is definitely in a place of discouragement. So God says: Let me show you something. Let me give you an illustrated lesson.

First there is a tremendous wind, the Bible tells us. The rocks are broken in pieces; thrown around! Turbulence like a Category 100 hurricane! [Well, maybe a 10]. The Bible says the mountain was "rent" from the wind! Then it got quiet for a moment. But God said that He was not in that wind!

Second event: Then a mighty earthquake comes. *[Take the board and pivot and set up a mini-see-saw and have a student rock back & forth trying to stand up on it].* Can you imagine? The ground is shaking; the cave sounds like it is about to come down on top of Elijah! He's getting dizzy; nauseated even. Then it got quiet for a moment. But God was not in the earthquake!

Then the fire comes. Thick smoke; then trees going up like torches; he can barely breathe and has to retreat back into the cave to find air. Is God going to kill him just as he had asked Him to? WOW, couldn't I just have gone to sleep and awakened in Heaven? What'd I do to deserve all of this? Then quiet. But God was not in the fire!

He listens for what is next. And the Bible says: *And after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, **when Elijah heard it**, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?*

And two verses later God says: **GO, here are my instructions.**

WOW, this is how it works! God wasn't finished with Elijah. Elijah had performed spectacular miracles from God, but his greatest days were still ahead. The next ten years he would be quietly in the background training Elisha because Elisha was going to do twice as many miracles as Elijah. The spectacular things we do are generally not the most important. The training of Elisha did more to glorify God than calling fire down from heaven.

Summary & Conclusion:

Remember that obedience to that still small voice will keep us in fellowship with God; will keep us content in what He wants us to do.

When we expect the dramatic, then we will get discouraged when we are in between the mighty miracles: The great and strong wind, the earthquakes, and the fires. Elijah was busy calling fire from Heaven, but was missing the greater plan of God.

Elijah taught Elisha that it is not the big miracles that determine your closeness to God; it is listening to the Still Small Voice. *(Present salvation here.)*