

The Fiery God: Rescued from Silence

1 Kings 18: 20 So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. 21 Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.”

But the people said nothing.

The Israelites had two problems:

(1). They were silent.

They were silent
because they were told to be
silent.

Stanley Milgram



*THE ESSENCE IN OBEDIENCE CONSISTS IN THE
FACT THAT A PERSON COMES TO VIEW HIMSELF
AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR CARRYING OUT
ANOTHER PERSON'S WISHES AND HE
THEREFORE NO LONGER REGARDS HIMSELF AS
RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS ACTIONS.*

Silence is never the right
choice

when it comes at the expense
of God's voice.

Deuteronomy 6: 4 Hear (Shema), O Israel:
The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the
Lord your God with all your heart and with all
your soul and with all your strength.

To love God with all your being
is to hear and respond to His
voice alone.

The Israelites had two problems:

(2). They “wavered”.

They were silent
because they knew they were
wrong.

God's desire for His people
is to take Him seriously.

1 Kings 18: 22 Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only one of the Lord’s prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. 23 Get two bulls for us. Let Baal’s prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it.

1 Kings 18: 24 Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. **The god who answers by fire—he is God.**”

Then all the people said, **“What you say is good.”**





Divided hearts are
healed when we realize
voices other than
God's are powerless.

1 Kings 18: 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. And they danced around the altar they had made.

27 At noon Elijah began to taunt them.

“Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god!

1 Kings 18: Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.”

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come here to me.” They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the Lord, which had been torn down.

1 Kings 18: 31 Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, “Your name shall be Israel.” 32 With the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed.

1 Kings 18: 33 He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.”...

1 Kings 18: 36 At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed:
“Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.

1 Kings 18: 37 Answer me, Lord, answer me,
so these people will know that you, Lord, are
God, and that you are turning their hearts
back again.”

38 Then the **fire of the Lord** fell and burned
up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and
the soil, and also licked up the water in the
trench.

1 Kings 18: 39 When all the people saw this,
they fell prostrate and cried, “The Lord—he
is God! The Lord—he is God!”

God's fire is the cure
for a silent heart.

Jeremiah 20: 9 If I say, “I will not mention
his word

or speak anymore in his name,”

his word is in my heart like a fire,

a fire shut up in my bones.

I am weary of holding it in;

indeed, I cannot.

God's fire burns in us when

we repair broken altars.

God's fire burns in us when

we offer costly sacrifice.

God's fire burns in us when

we proclaim the Lord's name in
victory.

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1 Kings 18: 25 Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.” 26 So they took the bull given them and prepared it.

Rescued from Silence

(1). Acknowledge others' voices
besides God's in your heart.

Rescued from Silence

- (1). Acknowledge others' voices besides God's in your heart.
- (2). Realize worldly voices cannot deliver on their promises.

Rescued from Silence

(3). Let God's fire burn in your heart alone.