

*He came there to a cave, and lodged there; and behold, **the word of Yahweh came to him**, and he said to him, **What are you doing here**, Elijah?*

He said, I have been very jealous for Yahweh, the God of Armies; for the children of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and slain your prophets with the sword: and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

*He said, Go forth, and stand on the mountain before Yahweh. Behold, **Yahweh passed by**, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks before Yahweh; but **Yahweh was not in the wind**: and after the wind an earthquake; but **Yahweh was not in the earthquake**: and after the earthquake a fire; but **Yahweh was not in the fire**: and after the fire **a still small voice**.*

*It was so, **when Elijah heard it**, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entrance of the cave.*

*Behold, there **came a voice to him**, and said, **What are you doing here**, Elijah?*

*He said, I have been **very jealous** for Yahweh, the God of Armies; for the children of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and slain your prophets with the sword; and I, even **I only, am left**; and they seek my life, to take it away. (1 Kings 19:9-14)*

*"Yet I have reserved **seven thousand** in Israel, all whose knees have **not bowed to Baal**, and every mouth that has **not kissed him**." (1 Kings 19:18 NKJV)*

Tuning to God's voice.

Elijah retraining, from fear to focus – but did he actually **get it**?

Jesus facing the same fire and sorting out God's will

Following the Lamb wherever He goes

God's will and voice have to do more with **disposition** and **spirit** than mere content

Psalm 22 – feeling forsaken but ending up **choosing to praise** God in the midst of His people anyway

Maybe this is **how to switch** from **strange fire** to **divine fire** – through **choosing praise**.

Is God's will/voice/immediate **presence** in the fire, whirlwind, earthquake?

Did Elijah actually take this lesson to heart?

Why did he **later incinerate** soldiers sent to arrest him with fire from heaven?

Did **Jesus face the fire** of shame, fear, humiliation, fierce wrath of demonically inspired humans?

God's voice from the **whirlwind** for Job. Does that relate to **what Jesus faced**?

The **whirlwind** of Elijah **splintered the rocks**. The **earthquake** at **Jesus' death** did the same. **God?**

Is **craving the spectacular** not an addiction and distraction and part of the war?

After sin entered this world through Adam, humanity has been damaged and seriously **inhibited** in regards to **discerning the true voice and will** of God. Death came into the world because humanity largely **lost their vital connection** to the **still small voice** through which the true power of God's **love flows into** our existence.

Our **conscience** and **imagination** is where the **war transpires** for the most part.

The enemy is ever seeking to **distract us** through **emotionally charged events**, feelings, enticements to **pleasures that do not satisfy**; also through **fear** or lust for power to be in **control**.

The list of **3 sin categories** is very relevant and have to do with being distracted and disconnected.

*Don't love the world, neither the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the Father's love isn't in him. For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh**, the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life**, isn't the Father's, but is the world's. The world is passing away with its lusts, but he who does God's will remains forever. (1 John 2:15-17)*

*When the woman **saw** that the tree was **good for food**, and that it was a **delight to the eyes**, and that the tree was to be **desired to make one wise**, she took of the fruit of it, and ate; and she gave some to her husband with her, and he ate. (Genesis 3:6)*

*Thus says Yahweh, Don't let the wise man **glory in his wisdom**, neither let the mighty man **glory in his might**, don't let the rich man **glory in his riches**; but let him who glories glory in this, that he has understanding, and knows me, that I am Yahweh who exercises **loving kindness, justice, and righteousness**, in the earth: for in these things I delight, says Yahweh. (Jeremiah 9:23-24)*

Significantly, the song over the Lamb in Revelation 3:12 picks up on all these things.

Jesus came to reconnect humanity back to our original design, including **primarily our emotional connection** to our loving **Father** at the heart level.

The **kingdom of heaven** is a massive **reconstruction** project to recondition every willing human being to be reoriented, recalibrated and restored so that the **body of Christ** will **emerge** as the **city of God**, the New Jerusalem where God can dwell openly, freely and is welcomed without reservation.

Part of **Baal worship** is belief that **force, coercion and accusation** is permissible and even necessary **to win** over evil. This **misrepresents God** and infects us with the spirit of pride and self-righteousness.

It is Jesus' job to bring unity of truth and spirit to His body, not mine.

It is not my job to know all truth in order to induce unity.

It is not my job to make others in the body to be unified in truth.

It is not the job of truth to unify the body but the presence of genuine love.

Love can only thrive in humble, teachable hearts.

It is my job to humble myself to receive love and to give love with patience.

It is my job to receive correction from Jesus because Jesus alone unites us with His love.

It is Jesus' job to deal with false teachings that threaten the unity of His body, not mine.

Jesus is actively working in love so that false teachings will expose themselves as error.

When I feel compelled to point out error in others, the spirit of criticism can strengthen pride.

Pride is a bacteria that spoils 'good food' and can threaten the condition of the entire mix.

Jadra's attempt to bless her husband that left her feeling defeated and hijacked by rotten tomato sauce, was not really a waste after all. It turned out to be extremely timely and is being used by God to alert me to my own danger of being spoiled by a spirit of bitterness, fault-finding and pride of being right. I must be willing to receive this warning so I don't become the source of ruining the entire 'dinner' through my Pharisaical spirit, thinking I have better truth than the body.

Follow after peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no man will see the Lord, looking carefully lest there be any man who falls short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and many be defiled by it; (Hebrews 12:14-15)

Canned tomato sauce was never intended to be a source of ruining a whole batch of wonderful rice and garlic and seasoning. It was meant to enhance it with even more passionate flavor to produce a greater blessing. But to use Jesus' analogy from a slightly different direction, if salt has lost its savor – if the tomato sauce has been infected with bad bacteria and is not detected early enough, what was meant for blessing could be exploited by the enemy to result in disaster.

What is most important is the condition of my spirit, not being right at all cost.

If I feel it is my job to counter subtle heresies creeping into the mindset of the body of Christ, I open the door for distress, fear and desperation to infect my spirit. I also allow for pride to strengthen its roots and I resist exposure to the conviction of truth about my real condition, causing my blindness to increase even while I may continue receiving more and more light intellectually that is useful.

Who are you who judge another's servant? To his own lord he stands or falls. Yes, he will be made to stand, for God has power to make him stand. (Romans 14:4)

My responsibility is to remain transparent, open, accountable, receptive, humble, teachable and loyal to the One who died to pay for all the sins I think someone else should be punished for. He came to satisfy and dismantle my skewed perceptions of justice so that I may be integrated back into my original design to live in love, trust and freedom in truth.

Jesus is more than able, willing and eager to save, correct, establish, guide and correct each person. He does not need my help, but at times He may invite me to assist Him in some small way so I may participate in His work of blessing others and so my heart may become more closely united with both His heart and those He connects to me around me. But my first and primary responsibility is to focus my attention on His face, listen to His Spirit, respond to His promptings and leave others entirely in His keeping so His will may be accomplished more quickly without me messing it up again.

The body of Christ is not mine to assemble or even criticize. It belongs to God, not to me. To indulge in a spirit of criticism is to imbibe of the wine of Babylon, and while that can be intoxicatingly pleasurable temporarily, it always results in inebriation, confusion and darkness. To be critical of a fellow believer means being critical of the Christ who is their Lord. Their condition may need remedy, but I must respect the Physician to be in charge, not me. The body of Christ is for me to integrate into with humility, trusting the heart of the One who is the head of the body, the head of us all, the one who directly communicates with each one in order to synchronize the body through inspiration of the one Spirit who always unites us in love for one another.