



Prayer Resources

Online Articles

This Online Article is copyright © 2001 by Dr. Rob and Judy Finley

Prayer Resources

PO Box 751016
Memphis, TN
38175-1016
901.794.6999

Two Often Overlooked Essentials For Revival

Then the fire of the Lord fell. I Kings 18:38a

The account of the revival under the leadership of Elijah in 1 Kings 18-19 has often been used to discover the essentials of a Biblical revival. Over the years, men and women have poured over the words and paragraphs searching for those treasured principles. Often they have overlooked two: the essential of an itinerant revivalist and the essential of an intercessory remnant.

The itinerant revivalist was an essential element in the revival recorded in 1 Kings 18-19.

During the ninth century B.C. the religious community of Israel had hundreds (possibly thousands) of priests and prophets who were a hindrance to revival. Perhaps at times this hindrance was not intentional. These ministers may have even voiced a desire for revival. At other times these leaders of the religious establishment just ignored the Lord's servants and their deeper cries for revival. Sometimes they even opposed the prayers for revival. They were not necessarily evil men. They represented the religious community that had infiltrated the religion of Israel. They led the worship in Jerusalem and upon a dozen hills throughout the land. They sang the historic Psalms of Zion as well as the contemporary songs of Baal. They preached the Lord's commandments and the current religious thinking of the world. They took from both worlds and promised prosperity and success to those who would emulate them. The people of God loved their message and flocked by the thousands to hear their teachings. Attendance had never been higher. Some of the synagogues bulged with the numbers! Offerings flowed into the coffers! Never did the people sing with any more gusto! Finally a showdown came when an itinerant revivalist named Elijah contested them with the question, *How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word* (1 Kings 18:21).

The intercessory remnant was an essential element in the revival recorded in 1 Kings 18-19.

Following the revival on Mount Carmel, Elijah cowered in a cave exhausted from the taxing toll that the event had exacted upon him physically and fearful of the subsequent revenge of Queen Jezebel. As he cried out to God in desperation and loneliness, God responded by declaring to Elijah that he was not alone in this great epic battle for revival! Indeed there were others who had not bowed to the spirit of the age! There was Hazeal, a servant of God who would serve the Lord faithfully in Syria. There was Jehu, a king-in-waiting who would serve the Lord diligently in Israel. There was the young apprentice named Elisha who would follow Elijah and work twice as many miracles as did his mentor. There was Obadiah, a governor under the evil King Ahab, who had served the Lord sacrificially by saving from persecution some of the Lord's choicest servants. There were the one hundred prophets or revivalists that the Lord had hidden away until the proper time for their release. And, by the way, there were seven thousand others who had served the Lord conscientiously! Elijah had not realized that the prayers for the fire of God to fall upon Mt. Carmel were not his prayers

alone. The prayers were an amassing of the prayers of the intercessory remnant that had been in hiding. Over the weeks, months, and years they had learned to wait upon the Lord in secret. They had studied and learned the principles of prayer and finally the accumulating prayers of this godly remnant fanned the fires upon Mt. Carmel until the love of God flowed down from Heaven as a stream! Heaven could not keep back the flow of God's love as the prayers of God's remnant were cried out before Him. Prayers from the fields, from the caves, and from the very house of Ahab came before the Lord as though they were one

mighty voice! And God answered out of heaven! The fires of revival fell!

In revival, these two essentials go hand in hand: the essential of an itinerant revivalist and the essential of an intercessory remnant. Seldom are they missing from revival. Sadly today there is a decline of the use of the itinerant revivalist in scheduled revivals. Today there is a discouragement among the intercessory remnant because they feel they are so alone. As we pray for revival, we must pray for a reversal of these two scenarios.