

How Elijah's Showdown With Baal's Prophets Can Prepare You for Your Spiritual Battle

Read 1 Kings 18:1–46, Mark 10:17–52 and Prov. 4:8–17.

Sometimes our work for God requires severe actions. In these times—ones that we can't possibly prepare for—we need to rely on the Spirit and its work to empower us.

I have always admired Elijah the prophet because he goes into firestorms with little, if any, preparation. The Spirit of God is his leader, sword and shield. One of the most frightening moments in Elijah's life is his encounter with the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel. How could Elijah prepare to face 450 prophets from the enemy nation who are endorsed by Elijah's own king? He faced certain death. Perhaps he had even reconciled himself to the idea that his life would end on that mountain.

Elijah's supreme confidence in Yahweh is inspiring. He instructs the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for there are many of you, and call on the name of your god, but do not light a fire underneath" (1 Kings 18:25). After the other prophets fail to bring down fire from heaven, Elijah does what must be done: He calls down fire, and then he kills the evil prophets (1 Kings 18:30-40).

Although Elijah's particular actions do not apply directly today, his boldness certainly does. We should never fear walking into a fight against evil; instead, we should be ready to engage those who lead others astray. We must be certain that God will give us His words. He will act through us.

Whenever we're in need, no matter how severe the situation,

God can deliver us. We cannot prepare for the battle against the great evil that lurks in the world, but we can be certain that God will be with us.

What evil must you face? What do you need? Have you asked God for it? {eoa}

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