

The spirit of Intimidation

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. And the angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life." (1 Kings 19:1-10)

The above passage is one of the clearest examples in Scripture of how intimidation can affect people. Elijah's experience is common to many who have suffered from intimidation. He ran, hid, became depressed, only saw the negatives, felt hopeless, helpless and defeated. He fell into self-recrimination, wanted to give up and even die!

Intimidation is one of the strategies of the enemy to prevent people from completing the course God has for them.

There are many who know they have had a genuine experience of God through the Outpouring from Lakeland. Some travelled to Florida and were impacted at the meetings there, others were touched through the television or internet and still more have had a genuine experience through attending a Healing Outpouring Event here in Broxburn or one of the other centres of the Outpouring. Many have been healed, others have experienced personal revival and in some cases even marriages have been restored.

There are those who have received a fresh anointing from God and have begun to worship and witness with renewed fervour. Others have taken the anointing they have received, reached out to people who are sick or in pain and seen God use them to bring healing. A renewed confidence has come upon many Christians to act in faith and do the works of Jesus.

However, recently I have heard a number of accounts of people who have been affected by the fall-out concerning Todd Bentley. As a result of revelations concerning Todd's behaviour, there is now considerable backlash

coming against those who supported the Outpouring. The enemy is taking advantage of this by bringing a spirit of intimidation against many of those who have had a genuine experience of God.

Clearly there are those who have genuine questions and concerns and these need to be addressed. However, there are others who are simply attacking the Outpouring in an attempt to undermine it as an authentic Move of God.

We should pray that those who know that they have had a genuine experience should not in any way be put off from pursuing all that God has for them through this Move of His Spirit. We should also pray that people will not be put off testifying to what God has done in their lives. We should also pray that they will not be put off encouraging others to come and participate in the Outpouring.

In Acts 4:29–31 we see a very different response to intimidation than the response of Elijah.

“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

The only way to overcome intimidation is to stand against it. We ourselves need to stand and we need to pray for any who are coming under any form of intimidation that they themselves will be able to stand.

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