

Kingdom Faith Ministries

International Newsletter



Teaching God's People To Hear The Voice Of The Lord

When Your Brook Is Drying Up

*Pastor Paul Norcross
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I often wonder what it was like to be Elijah at the brook called Cherith. From seemingly nowhere, Elijah's first appearance in the Scriptures occurs when he boldly proclaimed to King Ahab that there will be neither dew nor rain in the years coming except as Elijah gave the word.

1 Kings 17:1

And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

We know nothing of Elijah personally, except that he was from the region of Gilead. But we know nearly everything, certainly everything that we need to know, about his relationship with the Lord in just the first verse about him!

Elijah was God's man. His name means "God of Jehovah." We know that what we call (or believe deeply in our heart about God's work in) ourselves is a big deal. Our first insight into the magnitude of Elijah and God's relationship appears right away in verse one: Elijah is God's man, speaking God's message to King Ahab.

There are years and years of walking with the Lord underneath this verse! Elijah didn't become confident in hearing and obeying the voice of the Lord overnight. Right from birth, he had Godly parents who named him, and who would have encouraged his walk in the Lord into a place of intimacy in the secret place of the Most High. A mighty man or woman of God is years in the making, and confronting Ahab was no small divine assignment for just such a man of God.

1 Kings 17:2-3

And the word [dabar = a speaking, or a saying, i.e. revelation] of the LORD came unto him, saying, Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

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And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

***Moves of God are precipitated by revelation to a man or woman of God.
Those who want to move with God, must learn to be moved by revelation from God.***

Think about this: moves of God are precipitated by revelation to a man or woman of God. Those who want to move with God, must learn to be moved by revelation from God. Each of the mighty men and women of God that are noted in Hebrews chapter 11, for example, moved in precisely the same way – with prior revelation from God, which was based on prior close relationship with God. This brings powerful understanding to anyone who wants to move in world-changing obedience to God in our day and time.

Many brothers and sisters yearn for an assignment from God. We want so much to flow with Him, and be partakers with the Lord in building His church. Thus we hear prayers of saints wanting to be “used by” God, by which I sincerely hope they mean that they desire to willfully cooperate with and obey God. The God of the Bible, Elijah’s God, is not a “user” of people. He is an inviter. He invites us to hear and obey Him! When we have developed our joy and personal fellowship in Him, conversation flows freely, and so do His powerful assignments.

God does not waste words. Elijah’s next assignment after obeying the first one to speak to Ahab occurred immediately. Notice that God did not give the second command, to go hide at the brook, until Elijah had obeyed the first command. This is because God has a method to his revelation and how to best accomplish His purposes through His people. It is a marvelous thing to realize that God wants to work through you! And He has a very specific manner of doing so.

God’s revelation is often given one drop at a time, in progressive doses.

Revelation from God is often progressive. He taught me this one day as I was listening to Him teach from the book of Joshua.¹ The lessons we learn from spending time alone with the Lord are so awesome!

I give progressive revelation. When Joshua moved on the instruction to get the people over the Jordan, then I gave him the next piece of knowledge on what to do. There are several reasons why My revelation is progressive.

First and foremost is obedience. I cannot work with a disobedient people. So many of My servants are lazy. I can’t get them to move at all. The greatest among them are still dull of hearing sometimes, and the least among them are lazy like Eli. Laziness is knowing My revelation voice and knowing it is My will for them at that moment, and ignoring Me by deliberate, willful decision. I cannot go far with lazy people – the lukewarm who hear sometimes and pretend not to hear at other times.

Take you for instance. This morning, did you not argue with Me at first before getting out of bed at My beckoning to write this chapter? Yet were you not thrilled in your heart once you began to praise Me? Are you not rejoicing as you write these words? Would they have been given to you if you stayed in bed as Eli would have? Joshua was not lazy. It took time to get this many people to move.

¹ See *Succeeding In Spiritual Warfare*, pg 47-50. Available from the bookstore at www.kingdomfaith.org

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The second reason I could not give Joshua more revelation at the time I first told him to cross the river is obvious – he’d forget. It wasn’t that he would forget to do what was to come next, but he would fail to do it at the right time.

Progressive revelation enables the timing of revelation to be correct. There is a timing required. The believer who listens with their spirit to My voice will have no trouble doing My will according to My timetable. The timing of the Holy Spirit is not a light, insignificant matter. The spiritual man is given much discretion at times, usually as an allowance for laziness (i.e. tardiness) in responding to My words. But the more faithful and sensitive the hearer, the more rapid his or her obedience to revelation. Yet – those who are wise will stay at My table to learn wisdom regarding [how to] apply the revelation.

The third reason My revelation must often be progressive is because birds of the air have ears. Bigger demons hover around My servants who learn to heed My voice. But the timing of the Holy Spirit cannot be pre-determined by any[one] but the Father. Hence, the enemy must grapple with unpredictable timing, and in attempting to block it, must guess at both what the Holy Spirit is doing and when.

The fourth reason for progressively revealing My will in specific, discrete packages instead of all at once, is because men’s sense of urgency about doing My will wanes with time. Men and women become excited about doing what is new, forgetting and wearying of that which is old. The ministry of a teacher suffers in My body because of this. An anointing to teach a certain subject, though received with fire and taught with the power given by the Spirit, becomes “old hat” to the teachers whose lazy hearts fail to remember that an anointing stays an anointing until released by the Holy Spirit.

The “need” for things [that are] new to a man who is weary of the old becomes easily exploited by the enemy. This is how My ministers manage to overstep the boundaries of My calling and manage to become false apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists, or pastors. They want to step into another calling that appears more attractive, more glamorous, or more self-promoting.

*Those who seek new revelation because they are tired of doing the old revelation become complainers in their spirit. Complaining leads to unfaithfulness, and unfaithfulness leads to treachery against the Holy Spirit. This is precisely why Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land after leading My people for nearly forty years.² **It is not a light thing to complain secretly in your heart against the Holy Spirit’s leading and call upon your life.***

Once Joshua fully obeyed, having crossed the river, he was ready for the next step of revelation.

What Elijah Learned In The School of the Holy Spirit

Elijah certainly knew the seriousness of his obedience to tell Ahab the revelation word of the Lord. As we ponder the account, we can’t help but ask ourselves if we would have the courage to confront the king like he did. When we realize this confidence was wholly linked to the frequency and quality of his relationship with the Lord, we naturally have to ask ourselves, how do we also cultivate this kind of relational confidence? Would we have the courage to obey such an instruction from the Lord to confront a world leader like he did, a leader who could easily retaliate and orchestrate our death?

Such obedience and confidence only comes from oneness with our Master, Jesus Christ. That oneness comes with time spent listening to Him in the secret place of His presence. Sometimes we hear of this place described

² See Numbers 20:1-12; Deuteronomy 32:42-51; 34:1-5 and related footnote, page 103, Succeeding In Spiritual Warfare.

as the School of the Holy Spirit. Hebrews chapters 3 and 4 describe this place as the place of rest for God's people. Elijah was about to get more schooling from the Spirit.

1 Kings 17:5-6

So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

When we think of ravens bringing food to Elijah, we might think of road-kill carrion that one might see along the road side. Maybe our humorous side would think of Dominoes' Pizza home delivery, or home teriyaki delivery (if in Japan). But I think the food that God provided to Elijah was far more royal, and delightfully more varied than take-out fast food!

We must understand that Elijah was still in school with the Lord. What lessons would the Lord have taught Elijah in this place, such as the joy of singular and very personal communion with Him, or perhaps the awe and wondrous majesty of His presence? The delight of seeing what God would bring to him each day to eat? The conversations they would have had together in the secret place of the Most High must have been so glorious! "Lord, what is this stuff?" "It's manna, Son. Do you like it?"

At least one conversation each day with our Master enables us to be full of His peace and power for the rest of the day. One gathering of revelation manna from Him sustains our life with new strength and purpose. One interlude of resting in His presence, ceasing from our works, dining at His table, enables His assignments to move forward through us. These are Kingdom processes. His works that come out of our resting in Him are Promised Land works which will not be burned.

***When Your Brook Is Drying Up,
Dial God. He has a Plan!***

We can't help but note another amazing thing about God's working in Elijah at the brook: God hid Elijah not merely to protect him from Ahab, but to prepare him for his next assignment. I can imagine Elijah watching as the brook began to dry up. Knowing full well it would soon no longer sustain him, yet knowing God would continue to take care of him, Elijah must have wondered how the Lord would supply. Perhaps he might have laughed at a notion of tasking more ravens to begin adding more supplies with each trip. God, would you mind sending me some bottled water on their next flight in?

But however the Lord supplied this need, more likely Elijah would have been filled with love and awe for God's provision. He would have also been praying for all those who were suffering in the cities in their lack of water and food, knowing that God would somehow know how to supply help to the pure in heart, and inspire them to turn even more to God.

Though the clock was ticking, the water was drying up, and the vegetation around him was turning brown, Elijah's conversations with the Lord would have continued in the school of the Holy Spirit. The deepening trust, friendship, understanding and God-reliance would have been strengthening in Elijah, making him able to obey his next assignment – to come out of hiding as Ahab's most wanted criminal in all of Israel - and head north to find a widow woman in Sidon.

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I Kings 17:7-9

And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,

Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

In the Hebrew, Zarephath (Tsarphah) means “a place of refinement.” God was sending Elijah to a widow woman not just to sustain him through his next season, but also to further refine him! Why would God still be interested in refining a man as powerfully walking with God as the prophet Elijah? **For the same reason that God is vitally interested in refining you for your next season.** You are also a powerful minister with a mission for God to do in your life. He will take you through periods of Kingdom accomplishment, which will simultaneously double as preparation for your next assignment IF you carefully obey His instructions which He will give you in the secret place of His presence.

Beloved, God’s ability to sustain you in times of drought in your life is the same ability that empowers your ministry. Whether actively on Kingdom assignment, or resting in a hidden place by the brook, if each waking portion of your life is a growing communion with your Master through the Holy Spirit, then your schooling by the Spirit will deepen. Your refining and your assignments will increase, and your supernatural provisioning will never cease. The favor of God will open your doors, and the peace of God will both reign and ride over troublesome situations.

Christianity is neither Christian, nor even distinguishable from pagan worldliness, if it is not characterized by deepening fellowship with our heavenly Father, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through His gift of the Holy Spirit. The pure in heart will see God, and those who hunger and thirst after righteousness shall be filled. There are no exceptions to these conditions!

But there is also no greater pleasure in life, than to draw near and become one with our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. God created us to bring Him glory, and one-ness with Him is how this will come about. We need not be concerned with how old we are, how young we are, how much we know or don’t know, or how much we have or don’t have. We need only be concerned with how our relationship is progressing.

In the conversations we have daily around the dinner table with Jesus, He will wash us up and make us holy without spot or blemish, or wrinkle through the washing of His *rhema* word (Ephesians 5:26-27). The bride of the Lamb is being prepared, and the Spirit and the Lamb are saying, “Come!”

Revelation 22:11-17

(11) He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still [remember, holiness is largely accrued from the washing/receipt of His rhema words into your spirit].

(12) And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

(13) I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

(14) Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right [“exousia” meaning “authority”] to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. [Our capacity to do His commandments hinges on our Mathew 4:4 ability to hear them from His lips and live by every rhema word which proceeds from them. Notice in this verse also that this is how we gain authority to access the tree of life.]

(15) For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

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(16) I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

(17) And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely [the same water with which He washes and cleanses and makes holy, and without spot or wrinkle or blemish. This water comes from Jesus Christ, the Fountain of Living Water].

One Reason Why Strife Can Follow Some Christians

How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them (Psalm 139: 17)! God is so deeply eager to spend time with you. His eyes search the world over, seeking those human hearts that are perfect towards Him so that He can show Himself strong on their behalf (2 Chronicles 16:9a).

Those who foolishly fail to develop a perfect heart towards Him (by learning to hear His voice and letting Him cleanse and clean you with the washing of His *rhema* word from the Fountain of Living Water) will have continuous warfare in their lives (2 Chronicles 16:9b).

2 Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

I did not write the words in this verse. We really have no excuse not to seek the Lord daily, and continue the journey of letting Him perfect our hearts in increasing one-ness with Him. Clearly, the antidote for continuous strife in one's life is an ever sweetening and deepening personal friendship (perfecting) relationship with the heart of God. This is not to say that believers who seek the presence and intimacy consistently with the Lord will have no trials or tribulations. It is simply to say that the Lord will always provide a way of escape (I Corinthians 10:13) and implementing it requires the ability to learn from Him what it is! This learning comes, as Proverbs 3:5-6 declares, through trusting (Hebrew = "confiding") in Him, not leaning on our own understanding, and letting Him direct our paths.

Jesus Christ is the treasure that is waiting for us to find in the field. If we sell our all to buy it, we will obtain the treasure of intimacy with Jesus Christ, and all of His loving favor and grace will come into much fuller operation in our lives.

Jesus Christ is the One Who supplies the water to our brook. When our brook is drying up, it is our conversation with the Master which will either re-start the flow, or get us to a better water source. His voice is in the midst of this water (Psalm 29:3; 46:4-5) and it is the most powerful force in the universe. His *rhema* voice obeyed is a powerful miracle accomplished because the Holy Spirit broods upon those *rhema* waters in just the same manner as He hovered upon the waters of God's commands in Genesis 1, "Let there be....."

Beloved, make hearing and obeying the voice of the Lord your greatest pursuit in life. Don't give up and grow weary, don't get frustrated or lazy. Learn to gather it every day as daily manna from heaven, and it will flatten your hills and raise up your valleys. The counsel of the Lord that you garner from the secret place of the Most High will be your greatest source of prosperity both in the spirit and in the flesh. Our Great Shepherd can only bring those sheep to good pasture who hear His voice (John 10:27). The reason Jesus sent the Holy Spirit was to guide you and I into the All Truth. This All Truth has a name. His name is Jesus Christ.

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When our brook is drying up, listening in daily conversations with the Master are not just our only hope, but they are our greatest pleasure as well. This is treasure that is reserved for each of God's children to access each day that we draw breath.

Hallelujah to the One who knows our thoughts even before we think them! May your joy be full in His presence all the days ahead.

With you in His deep love,

Paul & Rita Norcross

Ministry News...



Please Pray For Kenya. Many of the areas affected by tribal warfare in western Kenya are areas in which we recently were teaching seminars. It breaks our hearts to hear of the many hundreds of believers and other citizens who have had to flee their homes. Many have found shelter



in pastors' homes and churches in the cities of Nakuru, Eldoret, Kisumu, Bungoma, and Migori – all places we visited and/or passed through on our last trip. We are sending what we can to help specific pastors, and have been doing so as the Lord has been helping us.

According to the press, the death toll from the violence is about 800, but we also hear from the pastors that the numbers are actually much higher, and it is continuing with fresh vengeance. The violence began in late December along tribal lines after the national elections were held on December 27th. The tribe/political party in power contested the results of the election from the primary opposing party/tribe. Armed gangs from the party that felt denied began a murder, rape, and arson campaign which centered in cities of western Kenya. As of last weekend, the victimized tribes have risen up and are doing even worse to their former aggressors. By the minute, the situation is deteriorating with violence taking on a life of its own for the sake of violence and thievery. The curse of shedding innocent blood worsens and is generational. Innocent blood spilled on the ground continues to cry out to God (Genesis 4:10-12) and brings curses to the generations and to the land. They can only be broken through repentance, forgiveness and declaration. In Kenya this is desperately needed on a national as well as a tribal level, and all the noble UN initiatives and efforts in peace talks will accomplish nothing because the problem is deeply rooted in the spiritual realm.



We sincerely ask your prayers and support for this work. We are hoping to return this year, as well as conduct seminars in new areas (such as the



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northern border area with Sudan, and in Uganda).



There is such need to help equip the saints, and these are precious brothers and sisters in Christ. We have been so excited seeing how they take what they are taught and go out in faith to preach, teach, and heal others. The miracle healings and mighty moves of God are thrilling to sow into, and we are very grateful to all who come with us, and all who come along side us to support this work.

This morning I received a phone call from pastor John and His wife Carole, and little Paul



Harvest and cousin Pauline (right). They pastor a precious little church in the city of Nakuru in central Kenya. Originally a relatively safe area, they suddenly found themselves hosting over 100 refugees among the 300,000+ displaced citizens who came into his city for escape. However as recently as last weekend (January 25-27), violence erupted resulting in the murder of over 1,000. Nakuru has now become unsafe, and John and his extended family have become refugees themselves. We are helping send the money to find transportation and a new start in a city with another close friend and pastor in another city.



Later this same morning I received the following e-mail from a different pastor, Pastors Joseph and Alice, in southwest Kenya in the town of Migori. Joseph and Alice oversee about 30 village churches on either side of the Tanzanian/Kenyan border, and they also run a Christian elementary school for some 250 or so children. These



photos (left) of the school children (showing off the new shoes we were able to bring to them!) are from this school, and Joseph is the man (on the left) baptizing one of about 15 or 20 that we helped baptize together after a Sunday service in early November.

Here is Joseph's letter from this morning's e-mails:

Dear brethren in Christ Jesus,
Paul and George,

The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee, for thou, Lord Has not forsaken them that seek thee: Psalms 9:9-10

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I hereby want to thank you so much again for the support which came through you to us from the dear brethren in Christ. In fact it came at the write time when we really have a great need. May you be greatly blessed for being the source of our supply as well Could you please allow me to bring to your best knowledge the situation here in Kenya, Nyanza and Migori? Yes the crisis is growing worse although the former OAU Kofi Anan is here going on with the peace talk., More than 1,000 people have been killed since last Thursday 24th when the discussion started.

There is a group of young men from the ruling clan-Kikuyu who are assisted by some armed men. They were going from house to house in Naivasha and Nakuru cutting the peoples neck. Last night they gunned down the opposition member of parliament of Embakasi in Nairobi area. Definitely this kind of attack is worsening the situation and even affecting the peace talks. The situation here in Migori is also worsening since the gang of thieves has found the advantage of looting other peoples' property not caring even if they steal their own brother's properties. We need prayer to save the situation.

Me in particular is being faced with a great burden of feeding a much bigger number of children and adult who have come from war torned areas to come and seek refuge in my house. As I'm writing I'm taking care of 50 persons. Although the burden is heavy, but I've no other option to avoid these children of God who needs assistance. People now find refugee in the villages a bit safer than going to the police quarters because many of those who went to seek refuge in the police stations have been removed or rather handed to the attackers by the police themselves and have been all killed.



You might doubt what I tell you here but this is exactly what happens. The reason is that if the police boss is kikuyu, he disarm the other police so if the attackers comes they had no way of defending these people therefore they're removed and killed. This has happened in many places. The Luos and the Masais also kill the Kikuyu, but they ambush them with no any other assistance from the government.

What we dearly need at this time besides the funds to feed, cloth etc these suffering people is the incessant prayer from the holy men of God. The physical material is also needed since the prices of the commodities have really one up. Please tell this story and submit our request for support to the brothers and

sisters, I mean the well wishers to do something. The is really the hard time when a brother can help a brother and a sister could also help her fellow sister.

I just amanged to sneek to the house of a brother who has a laptop connected to the Safaricom to send to you these massege. Till then be blessed,

Your in Christ,
Pastor Joseph

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So please pray and do as the Holy Spirit directs your heart. Let Him direct you from out of the secret place of the Most High. Somehow I can't help but think that what is happening in Kenya right now may not be far around the corner for many other places around the world. What is currently comfortable, stable, and familiar in every other place may well visit other countries as it has for Kenya. This violence is taking the world by surprise because it has been among the most stable political and economic countries of East Africa for many decades. Given the spiritual condition of the world, it is really not so surprising to realize that "over there" can be happening in one's own back yard with just as much

lack of warning. Violent things that are being released in the spirit realm represent a worldwide release, and may not stay contained in Kenya. These are sobering times, and those who would be world-changers must become world-warriors on their knees before God.

2 Chronicles 7:14-16

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

This is a verse we have heard many times before! It is a call to intercession, and I believe the first thing that needs intercessory prayer is to for intercessors to rise up and take their stations. Last week the Lord told me to pray for intercessors to rise up to intercede for intercessors around the globe who are being distracted, compromised, and discouraged, and afflicted.

Now notice the two verses that follow:

2 Chronicles 7:15-16

Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there forever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

God's ears will be attendant to the prayers that are made in the temple. Today, this temple is the temple of the Holy Spirit, resident within every man and woman of God. God will hear the prayers that flow from the temple that you and the Lord have been building through the Holy Spirit. Let us pray for Kenya, and for mighty saints to arise around the world and intercede with powerful purpose and dynamic faith. God is willing to listen and hear, and respond to the cries of His people right now!

For more details on the people and ministries with whom we are familiar from recent missions trips, and to encourage your prayers, please visit the Kenya reports section of our website at: www.kingdomfaith.org .

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