

Repairing broken altars

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In the Old Testament we read of a time in which the spiritual climate of the day was tragically poor. King Ahab “did evil in the sight of the Lord” (1 Kings 16:30). Unfortunately, the people followed suit in rebelling against God. They began to ignore God and put other gods before Him. That was no more evidenced than by the fact that the altars of God lay in ruins. Because of this, it had been some time since the people had experienced the presence and power of God in their midst. There was a natural drought at this time, but even worse there was also a spiritual drought.

However, because of the actions of one man (a prophet named Elijah), who chose to repair the altar of God, the power of God was demonstrated once more in a dramatic fashion. “And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down,” (1 Kings 18:30). As a result, God showed up and showed out. Read 1 Kings 18. Lives were changed, victories were won, showers of blessings came, and most importantly, God received great glory.

The reality is this: Nothing, absolutely nothing, can take the place of the power of God in our lives. Nothing, absolutely nothing, can take the place of the power of God in our churches.

But the question is: Is our altar in need of repair? Is it broken? It was when Elijah repaired the altar that a great thing took place – a “God thing”. If you and I are to experience great things in our lives and the lives of our churches that can only be described as “God-things”, our altars must be in order. All the necessary stones must be in place.

What are these stones? Elijah used 12 actual stones to put the actual altar in place, but as he was doing that he was putting in place another altar – the altar in his heart. He demonstrated complete devotion to God no matter what everyone else was doing. He showed a fearless faith that truly believed that with God all things are possible. He obeyed everything God told him to

do no matter the pressure that society put on him to do otherwise. He surrendered his all to God. These are the stones that we must use to repair our altars.

Today, the church cries out: Where is the God of Elijah? Where is that same display of power that God showed on Mt. Carmel? Why doesn't God do that today? Where is He? The answer is: He is right where He has always been. The real question is: Where are the Elijahs? It is time to end our practice of casual Christianity and mean business with God. It is time to repair our broken altars.

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