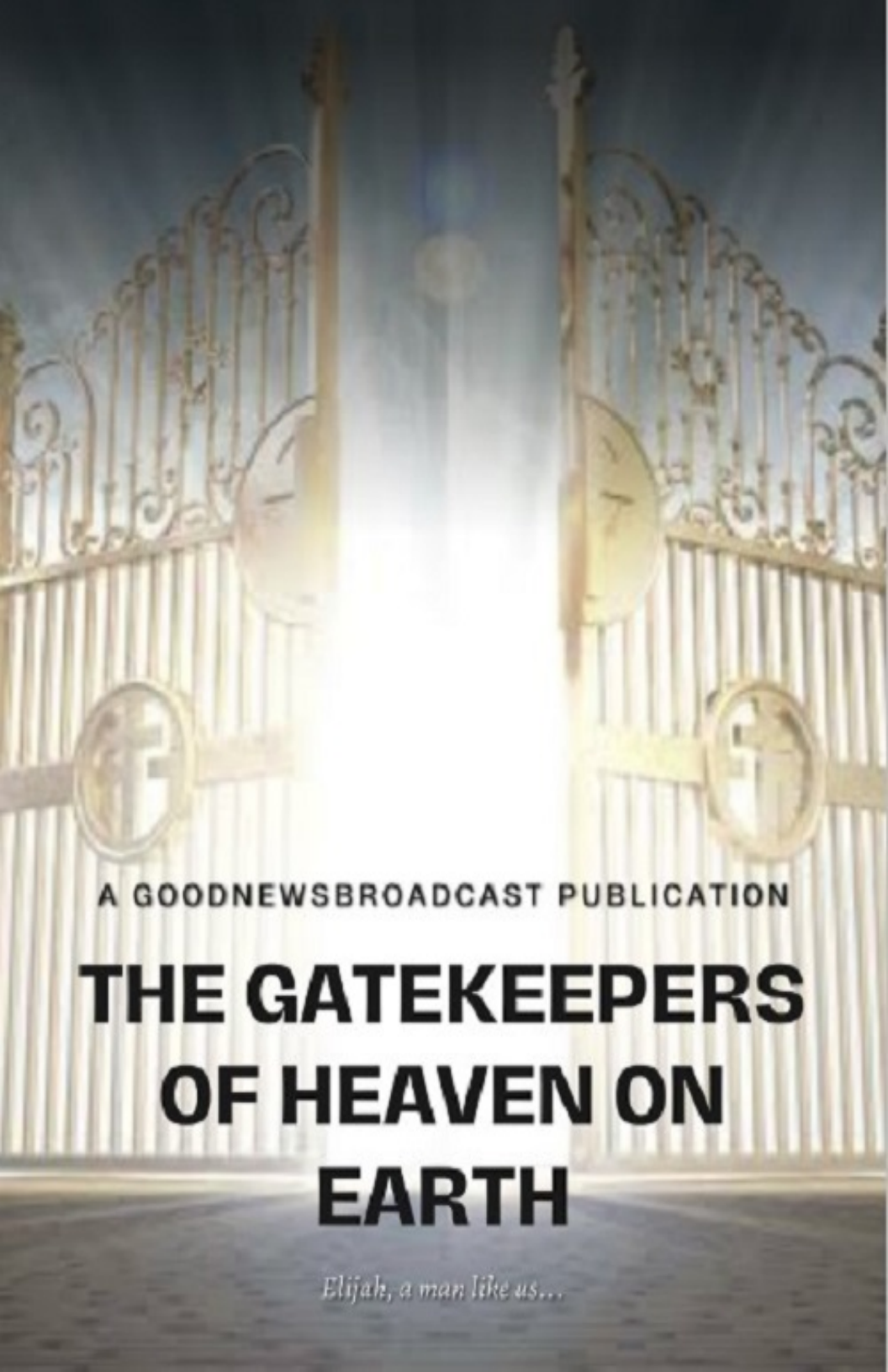


A GOODNEWSBROADCAST PUBLICATION

THE GATEKEEPERS OF HEAVEN ON EARTH

Elijah, a man like us…

THE GATEKEEPERS OF HEAVEN ON EARTH

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DEDICATION

Dedicated to all those who like the Elijah of old are boldly proclaiming that, "The Lord is God and He alone is to be worshipped!"

INTRODUCTION

Only those who have been born again can effectively represent the kingdom of God on earth. They are like rain which bless the earth in its season. If such men of the spirit are not available, the rain ceases and only mere mist of human philosophy mixed with religion and tradition of elders will dominate the place. Those who will move heaven on earth are those who like the Levites of Exodus have made the Lord their inheritance. It doesn't happen by mistake. Such men intentionally pledge allegiance to God with their lives practically screaming, "I am on the Lord's side!"

The gatekeepers of heaven on earth are men who by the Spirit of God have been prepared for spiritual exploits. They are men who

share in the passion of Elijah who had only one identity that, "he was a man of God!" In this book, we will glean from the footprint of Elijah, even as it is but a reflection of the greatest Custodian of heaven who ever walked on earth, our Lord Jesus. May the Spirit of Christ witness to your spirit.

THE GATEKEEPERS OF HEAVEN ON EARTH

"Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit." James 5:17-18

The above text is one of the few passages of the new testament books where the name of Elijah, the man of God, was mentioned. The passage describes the man in this manner; "WAS A MAN SUBJECT TO LIKE PASSIONS AS WE ARE". The text makes it real to us that Elijah was not a man from another planet. Rather he was a man just like us. He had his pains, his emotions and his down moment. Yet he prayed and received tangible answers

to his prayers. The text poised a challenge at us; "if Elijah can, we too can". If Elijah can shut heaven on earth, anyone who is in right standing with God can. We shall be trusting the Holy Spirit to grant us light even as we consider this man, Elijah, who became a custodian of heaven on earth.

About a thousand years before the birth of our Lord Jesus, the nation of Israel who were chosen by God to bear His name had suffered spiritual decay. Solomon, the successor of king David, led the nation into idolatry through his unbridled desire for affluence and influence which made him establish bonds with nations that God had warned him against.

"But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in

unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him

twice, Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant." 1 Kings 11:1-11.

The aftermath of Solomon's idolatry was that the nation of Israel never survived the influence of pagan nations on them. The house of Israel had to be divided as a result of a divine judgement upon Solomon. Two kingdoms were birthed. The kingdom of Judah and the house of Israel. These two nations began to experience spiritual decay. The people lost interest in the true God and went after idols. They neglected the law of God that had been given to their fathers and each man was living as his own "God". The worship and doctrine of the God of Israel lost it absolute value.

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Before we continue reading, let's pause and reflect on the current spiritual condition of

professed Christianity today. Hundred of years ago, it would have been strange that human concepts that clearly contradicts Biblical views would be accommodated among congregations of Christians. For instance, marriage was believed to be a shadow of the union between Christ (the groom) and His bride (the Church). Marriage was hence define as a union between a man and a woman. Today, it is no longer news that some Christian communities now allows extra biblical concepts to redefine marriage. It would have been better if that was all. But today, people who do not understand the gospel of Christ and whose belief system contradict the word of God now poise as leaders for the community of Christians. I weep for such a perilous time as this. For the Bible is not silent about such season.

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot

iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.1 Timothy 4:1-3.

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 2 Timothy 3:1-7.

At such a season as this, each of us who have truly found the Lord cannot afford to be

nonchalant in our commitment to the faith of Christ Jesus.

As we return to look at the spiritual condition in ancient Israel, we must not forget to ask ourselves, " Are we better than them?"

...

The atrocities of ancient Israel got to it climax during the days of king Ahab. He was so given to evil such that there was no king before him who beats his record of lawlessness.

"But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up." 1Kings 21:25

He married a pagan princess by the name Jezebel. This woman's name remains a symbol for immoralities and lawlessness till date. Ahab sold himself to do wickedness. He got devoted to iniquity. He was a greedy fellow, who lust after things. He even got sick when his lust was not met.

"And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread." 1Kings 21:4.

Ahab may be dead, but in our days, we see men living as the successors of Ahab. We see greed and carnality being celebrated and immoralities that isn't even to be found among unbelievers being celebrated in the churches of men. Have we not been warned not to be unequally yoked?

2 Corinthians 6:14 - Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

Have we not been warned not to love the world?

1 John 2:15 - Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

The child of God has being made a saint, hence he ought to walk as one.

…

It was during the reign of Ahab that the Bible introduced us to the man, Elijah. It must however be noted that during the days of a widespread of immoralities in Israel, God had a set of remnant, precisely seven thousand people, who had not bow their knees to Baal! These were men who vowed to be faithful representative of the kingdom of heaven on earth. These men had learnt to let go of unbridled appetites. They were dedicated as holy unto the Lord.

Like this seven thousand men whom we do not have their names or origin, we only have a scanty introduction to the man of God called Elijah. One key lesson we can deduce is that, a man needs no human introduction

when he is introduced by God. People seek introductions and connections among men today because they have not learnt to wait on God to introduce them. Our Lord Jesus at the beginning of His ministry, depended upon God's divine introduction. He didn't seek honor for Himself neither did he rally to be known. Rather, it was God Himself who announced Him via the anointing of the Holy Ghost and Power:

"Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized, and [while He was still] praying, the [visible] heaven was opened And the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, saying, You are My Son, My Beloved! In You I am well pleased and find delight!" Luke 3:21-22.

"How God anointed and consecrated Jesus of Nazareth with the [Holy] Spirit and with strength and ability and power; how He went about doing good and, in particular, curing all who were harassed and oppressed by [the

power of] the devil, for God was with Him." Acts 10:38.

Those who will be the custodian of heaven on earth must wait for the divine endorsement of God upon their lives. Do not seek any means to be known instead allow God's Spirit find expression in you.

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Let us now get to know Elijah, the man of God.

"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." 1 Kings 17:1.

We do not know of his birth, neither do we know his parents name. Those who God will use are not men made from human influence or natural capacity. They are men born of the Spirit. They do not owe their validity and impact in the kingdom to their human

heritage but to the fact that they are born of God.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:12-13.

Only those who have been born again can effectively represent the kingdom of God on earth. They are like rain which bless the earth in it season. If such men of the spirit are not available, the rain ceases and only a drought season full of human philosophy mixed with religion and tradition of elders dominate the place.

There will always be a season of drought if there are no men to work with the rain from above. The men who will work with the rain from above however are product of the Spirit filled life.

...

His name Elijah means "Yahweh is my God". At a time when Baal was the trending thing, when God had become outdated in Israel, Elijah carried the tag of belonging to God with honor. His name alone was enough to raise a discussion about God.

Those who will move heaven on earth are those who like the Levites of Exodus have made the Lord their inheritance. It doesn't happen by mistake. Such men intentionally pledge allegiance to God with their lives practically screaming, "I am on the Lord's side."

There is this sad story of a pastor's kid who adopted a Muslim name just to be able to woo a Muslim lady. The fellow later ended up in uttermost destruction as he did not recover from his indulgence.

Today, some Christians think it is outdated and improper to discuss about faith in Christ publicly. Others think it is unethical to be absolute with the truth. I can vividly recall few years ago when I was graduating from a

Christian based film school, we were to work on a short film project as part of the condition for getting certified as a trained Evangelical Filmmaker. A lady who overheard as we were shooting the short film, came to us and introduced herself as a graduate of one of the humanities discipline (I can't recall the exact course). She was of the opinion that we ought not to use the term "unbeliever" to define someone who has not accepted Jesus. I quickly had to make her realize that biblical terms and truth are not subjected to "human philosophy" and the opinion of men. If the Bible exclusively used the term "unbeliever", who am I to tone down the diction of the word of God.

Many people today who claim to be Christians are sympathetic to things that do not uphold the absolute relevance of the Christian truth.

Elijah lived among a people as a representative of the kingdom of the Father. Our community must know that we belong

to Jesus. Our sphere of influence ought to know that we are of the Lord. Our social media platforms are avenue for pushing up the gospel of the kingdom. Men ought to see our light and glorify the Father!

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16.

We have a choice. Whether to let our lives glorify God or not! Whether to displace darkness and give direction to others. Whether to put an everlasting joy in the heart of people and to let the light of the Gospel displace the darkness that the devil has implanted in the heart of many people.

"...the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in

our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:4-6.

Elijah foreshadows the man born of the Spirit. For the one born of the Spirit is like wind, unpredictable and unlockable.

Said unto Ahab...

Men who carry God are bold before kings of the earth. Kings are known to be powerful in ancient days. Their word is final and it is a terrible thing to cross their path. From the days of the Pharaohs of Exodus to the days of Ahab, kings have been known for brutality against perceived enemies. Many men have lost their heads for daring to cross the path of kings.

Elijah however could not be cowed. He knows for sure that a man standing for God has dominion over even the most powerful and ruthless king. We do not have a picture of when he met with Ahab but we can deduce the courage displayed by Elijah. We read of him declaring the counsel of the Father. We read of him proclaiming and

decreeing, his utterances were not a product of psychology, they were the declaration of a man who represents God.

In our days, we need men who have learnt of the boldness of Elijah. The Bible is filled with such men. We read of Paul standing in that office.

"And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by hand." Acts 13:11.

This men are not made in the open. They are men who have inherited God!

We need men who can pass judgement on nations. Men who have received their commissioning from God and God alone!

These men do not tolerate darkness. They do not excuse decadence. These men do not associate with evil men, for they know that ‘evil communication corrupts good manners'.

"See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant." Jeremiah 1:10.

These men are commissioned not to speak soothing lies to the ears, but the truth of God's word is their only message. They do not blend with the multitude. They do not give in to popular opinions. Rather, they speak as men who can boldly declare; 'if I perish, I perish!'

As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand...

Elijah wasn't speaking on the premises of his oratory skills or academic qualifications. He was speaking on the foundation that God exists! Those who must come to God must believe that He exists! They must know that God is not dead! They will never settle for the propaganda of the mainstream media. They will never given in to lies and the intimidation of social media. They do not fall for the error of the liberal humanist. They can boldly proclaim that God is not dead!

History will never forget the preacher, who for years after his preaching, alcohol was no

where to be found at the city where he had preached!

Men who know that God is alive and have sold themselves to Him do not depend on mechanical manipulations. They don't lead protest against decadence and the fruit of darkness with carnal or natural prowess. Because as the servants of the Lord, their voices will not be heard on the street. Rather, such brethren declare and establish the kingdom of their Father using weapons of warfare that are mighty through God for the pulling down of everything that exalts itself against the kingdom of God on earth. They shine as lights in this perverted and crooked generation!

It may take years to see these men, for they are not men given to formal and lukewarm Christianity. They are men of whom even demons recognize and tremble not just at the mention of the name of their Lord, but also at the mention of their names.

Elijah was such a man. He was a tormentor to the kingdom of darkness!

Men who know God exists are diligent in seeking Him. They have learnt to cast their cares on Him. They have learnt to seek Him and seek Him early. They have also learnt to submit only to His bidding. They do not bow or cow at the sight of the rulers of the world!

These men like Elijah have learnt to personalize God. They have made God their own. They have laid hold of the one who has called them into His light! These men are radicals. They are radicals for their Lord!

These men have become platforms upon which God can be seen. They are carriers of the glory of the Father! Like Jacob of old, they have come to the point where God has prevailed over them!

They may not be given popular platforms, and it may be risky to be associated with them, these men cannot easily be reproduced and they do not always raise

multitudes of successors. Yet, hundreds of years after their demise, their labour still speaks!

These men have found the secret place of the Most High, because they have made God their dwelling place! They do not crave for an inheritance on earth, for God is their portion! They do not lack, for nothing can satisfy them except God and in God they have found their satisfaction! These men are trophies of joy to the Lord! They do not go astray, for the spirit of Christ is their guard!

These men may not necessarily have the silver and gold of this earth, but see how they speak;

Acts 3:6 - Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth…

These men have possessed the greatest inheritance a man can have! The authority of Christ is at their reach and they are

dispatchers of the glory that comes with His name.

there shall not be dew nor rain these years,
but according to my word...

To be able to understand the gravity of the utterances that Elijah made, let us take a look at the origin of rain and dew. As children of God, we believe in the creation account of the scriptures. We know the visible things were made not from visible sources, but by the word of God.

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Hebrews 11:3.

God made seasons and He also designed that as long as man lives, rainfall would always come in it seasons. When man had not been

placed in the garden of Eden, there was no rainfall.

And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. Genesis 2:5

The presence of man on earth was a potential license for rain to fall, so as to aid man's farming activities. Rain would be necessary not just for farming, but for balancing the ecosystem and also for sustaining living things in the aquatic world.

The presence of rain helps to make farmwork easy to a large extent. Naturally, the ground gets more fertile with rainfall and this would help it yield its produce, thereby making food available in large quantity. Farmers would also get economic sustainance from selling their products and even the people's health would get better since some of the herbs can serve for medicinal purposes.

However, when rain had not began to fall on earth, God sent mist to help sustain the ecosystem.

Genesis 2:6 - But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.

Elijah left a footprint when by his prayers, heavens were shut. So that the men of his days may have a reverence for God. We need such men again today.

He was having a dual citizenship! He was a man whose declaration on earth altered the ecosystem. He was a man who had learnt to speak as one proclaiming the judgement of God on wickedness. He was a man whose words were not mere verbal gibberish! His words were shapened and sharpened by the faith that originates from God!

1 Kings 17:1 - Elijah the Tishbite, of the temporary residents of Gilead, said to Ahab, As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, before

Whom I stand, there shall not be dew or rain these years but according to My word.

Elijah did not depend on current affairs to speak. He didn't rely on statistics. He spoke as one whose God is alive. The proof that God is alive is in the reality that He honors the requests of His people! Only a man who has embraced heaven can speak and declare, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven!"

Motive For Praying

Elijah didn't pray so that his voice may be heard. He didn't pray because he wanted to be tagged a praying man. He prayed as one led of God! He prayed as one who has received from above, for no man can receive anything except it be given to him from above.

One reason why many prayers today do not receive answers is because that which is of the earth is earthy! Prayers that carry elements of carnality no matter how little they are, do not get a response from above.

"What is born of [from] the flesh is flesh [of the physical is physical]; and what is born of the Spirit is spirit." John 3:6.

Praying is a spiritual business. It can't be done with the arm of flesh! It is a declaration of faith. Faith not based on skills, faith not based on emotions but faith built on the will of God! For until a prayer is of godly root it is not a spiritual prayer! No one who prays by the will of God ever prays amiss.

"...The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]." James 5:16.

Dear Reader, why do you pray? What is your motive for praying? The gatekeepers of heaven on earth are those whose prayers bring blessings from above. They are those whose prayers alters the natural order of things. They are those whose prayers are like the foxes of Samson! Their prayers carry fire directly into the fields of the enemies and causes a great loss to the kingdom of darkness! These are the men who render the labour of modern day Philistines fruitless.

God is still recruiting such men, will you apply?

Count the cost but know that the glory of Heaven which shines on the gatekeepers far outweighs their labours.

The secret of Elijah lies not in anything other than that he was a man who had embraced the righteousness of God in his days. He was a man who preferred to be in alignment with God than to team up with the multitude to endorse evil.

Each of us must choose today whom we will serve. Whether the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ or the predominant evil of today. Know this, no man is ever neutral. You cannot be on the fence. You can either be one with God, united through Christ Jesus by faith or an enemy of God.

If you have read up to here and you aren't sure if you fit into those who can be called the gatekeepers of Heaven on earth, I want you to know that it is possible for you to

become one of such men today. It begins with the condition of your life. Do you have eternal life? Those who do not have eternal life cannot touch God, for God does not dwell in time. God is divine and eternal life is God's divine life offered to mankind in time that we may have fellowship with God now and in eternity.

Your journey to eternal life has to do with who Jesus is to you. Is He your Lord and Savior? I am not asking if He is the founder of the religion you practice. I am not asking if you carry a church membership card. I am asking if you have ever called on Him to save you? Have you asked Him to forgive you your sins and have you put your trust in His death and resurrection? Have you called on Him to save you? Why do you delay? You can receive eternal life this moment if you will ask?

If you have received Jesus, you must know that Jesus did not only died for your sins, He died and resurrected to give us eternal life. For He is life eternal. This life you have

received qualifies you to be a Gatekeeper of Heaven on earth.

Now that you are conscious of your enrollment as a gatekeeper of heaven on earth, you must arise and take your place. Position yourself like Elijah of old through your faith in Christ Jesus! Stand up and be counted among those described below;

"And they have overcome (conquered) him by means of the blood of the Lamb and by the utterance of their testimony, for they did not love and cling to life even when faced with death [holding their lives cheap till they had to die for their witnessing]." Revelation 12:11.

Cling to Jesus! Lay hold of that for which Christ has called you! Embrace righteousness and seek to do the will of God on earth. May the Spirit of Christ bless this word in your heart. Amen!

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