REPAIR THE BROKEN ALTAR

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:
REPAIR THE BROKEN ALTAR
Bible Texts: 1 Kings 18:1-39

Prayer

Eternal rock of ages, creator of hea0ven and earth, the redeemer of our souls. Father we thank you for this time you've made it possible for us to be before your throne of grace to receive divine counsel instruction and wisdom from you, dear Lord may you speak to us in way we will be able to understand you, open our hearts to your knowledge wisdom and understanding in Jesus mighty, also Lord, we pray may you use your servant this in a special way to deliver your word of truth to us in Jesus mighty name we pray, amen.

Introduction

You are welcome in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth! Please, follow today's study carefully, the Holy Spirit is about to unleash another basic truth that has to do with our existence here on earth.

BibleText

11Kgs.18.1 - And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.
1Kgs.18.2 - And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria.
1Kgs.18.3 - And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly:
1Kgs.18.4 - For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.)

1Kgs.18.5 - And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts.
1Kgs.18.6 - So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.
1Kgs.18.7 - And as Obadiah was in the way, behold, Elijah met him: and he knew him, and fell on his face, and said, Art thou that my lord Elijah?
1Kgs.18.8 - And he answered him, "It is I. Go, tell your master, "Elijah is here."'
1Kgs.18.9 - So he said, "How have I sinned, that you are delivering your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me?
1Kgs.18.10 - As the LORD thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not.
1Kgs.18.11 - And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here.
1Kgs.18.12 - And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth.
1Kgs.18.13 - Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?
1Kgs.18.14 - And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here: and he shall slay me.
1Kgs.18.15 - And Elijah said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely shew myself unto him to day.
1Kgs.18.16 - So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him: and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

1Kgs.18.17 - And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?
1Kgs.18.18 - And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.
1Kgs.18.19 - Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.
1Kgs.18.20 - So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel.
1Kgs.18.21 - And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.
1Kgs.18.22 - Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.
1Kgs.18.23 - Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under:
1Kgs.18.24 - And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.
1Kgs.18.25 - And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under.
1Kgs.18.26 - And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

1Kgs.18.27 - And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.
1Kgs.18.28 - And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.
1Kgs.18.29 - And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.
1Kgs.18.30 - And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.
1Kgs.18.31 - And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:
1Kgs.18.32 - And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.
1Kgs.18.33 - And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.
1Kgs.18.34 - And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time.
1Kgs.18.35 - And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.
1Kgs.18.36 - And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

1Kgs.18.37 - Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.
1Kgs.18.38 - Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.
1Kgs.18.39 - And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

Study
What is an altar?
An altar is a sacred space or structure where religious or spiritual rituals, ceremonies, or sacrifices are performed. It serves as a focal point for worship, prayer, or offerings to a higher power, deity, or ancestors. This is what an altar means in a general term, but in a godly term, it is connected to the true and living God! From the passage of the Scriptures, we can see that an altar is very powerful and significant; it must not be joked with. The story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal is one that expressly speaks of the power and might of the living God. This story is a very popular one because it talks about the supernatural intervention of God in the affairs of His people, Israel.

Israel had been a nation ruled by an ungodly king who was influenced to be so by his wife Jezebel. One of the major mistakes Ahab made was to have married Jezebel, who came from an idolatrous background. God founded Israel and declared that Israel would be His people, but Jezebel turned the heart of her husband against God and after her father's idol. Without any godly background, she lived a very devilish lifestyle. Because of the religious tension in Israel, Elijah had to proclaim three years of drought in Israel in order to turn them away from their sins. Sometimes the sin of the leader becomes the sin of the followers;

hence, Israel turned over to the worship of idols because the king shifted grounds. "At my word," says Elijah, "there will not be rain nor dew for 3 and 1/2 years," and it happened as the servant of the Lord had said it. After so much suffering in the land as a result of famine, hunger, and thirst, God told Elijah to present himself to Ahab, who had sought for him vainly during those three and a half years. The Lord said He would send the rain upon the Earth, and Elijah obeyed the word of the Lord. If this promise was to come to pass, then the land must turn back to God. Elijah had to organize a contest between him and the prophets of Baal, saying anyone whose god answers by fire would be followed, which they all agreed to.

1 Kings 18:21 KJV And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word. "How long will you live a double-sided lifestyle?" Elijah asked the people, but they did not answer him a word. God does not want us to live our lives for Him and then for Satan; He wants us to choose whom we want to serve. If we are to serve Him, then we should serve Him with our whole heart; and if it is Satan, then we should do the same, but faltering between the two makes no sense.

Are you with me please?

Just like the children of Israel, many people today want to sit on the fence; they want to be for God and enjoy the sinful pleasures of this world. They do not want to fully belong to one side, so they are stuck between two opinions. Yet, God cannot be deceived. Just like the man who wanted to sit on the fence between God and Satan, he did not want to choose one. He believed one leg was for God and the other for Satan, but what he did not know was that the fence belonged to Satan.

One cannot serve God with any other thing, for God is a jealous God. Are you also sitting on the fence? If you do, you automatically belong to Satan. You must choose to fully belong to God. Those intentional sins cannot help you—using charms and magic, loving to be of the world and for the world, yet claiming to be for Christ will not help you. It simply signifies that you are not of God, and He is far from you. No wonder the drought in your spiritual life and even in the physical things happening around you; when a person chooses not to surrender totally to God, their life experiences drought.

1 Kings 18:22-23 KJV Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. [23] Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under. Now these people are to choose whom to follow—God or Baal. An altar is to be made so that any god who answers by fire is to be fully followed. The prophets of Baal were to go first in the contest, for they were many, says Elijah.

They placed the bull on the altar and called Baal from morning until noon, but nothing happened. **1 Kings 18:26 KJV** And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made. The prophets of Baal already had an altar that was cold and should have been set on fire, but their god, who represents Satan, did not answer them. Despite all their cries, nothing happened; no fire was sent from anywhere.

In the same way, when we choose to follow Satan, our lives experience coldness; the altar of our lives becomes inactive and dry. Satan has no fire by which he can purify our lives. He has nothing to use to wake us up from our dead spiritual state. No matter how much we leap, no matter how much we cry to him, even if we sacrifice our blood to him, we remain unchanged. Nothing reasonable would happen to us; it is vain to look up to Satan for help, for help comes from above.

Is someone with me?

They cried unto Baal, but he did not heed their call. This is because even Baal needed help. You don't realize that many of those you run to for help need help themselves. Who do you turn to when you find yourself in a very difficult situation? Baal had legs and could not walk, he had eyes and could not see, and ears that could not hear, yet he was called upon for help; no wonder he could not answer. **1 Kings 18:29 KJV** And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

They prophesied till evening, and there was no voice. Prophets prophesied so much, even as Baal did not heed their calls, yet they kept prophesying. Prophecy is not proof that a prophet is from God; even the false prophets of Baal prophesied until they got hopeless. It got to the time for Elijah to call upon his own God, and the first thing he did was: **1 Kings 18:30 KJV** And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.

"He repaired the altar." We must understand that the moment we falter between two opinions, the altar of our lives is broken down

by falsehood in the form of people's actions, thoughts, and others. Elijah did not just go ahead to make the sacrifice; he repaired the altar of the Lord that was already broken down by the prophets of Baal. Truthfully speaking, the altar of many Christians' lives has been broken down because they have given in to compromise. Many have compromised their stand in Christ because of the situations they found themselves in. The day you begin to give in to sinful activities without remorse is the day Satan starts breaking down the altar of your life."Little sins you do not count" breaks down the altar of your life and makes it cold. These are the things the Scriptures call "little foxes" that spoil the vine.

Song of Solomon 2:15 KJV Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes. The reason the altar of anyone's life can be broken down is simply because such a person does not want to follow God fully, but still wants to do the things sponsored by the flesh and the world, forgetting God’s covenant and enjoying the pleasures of sin. These things break down the altar of our lives that should burn for us to receive the fire of God.Manasseh had to repair God’s altar after he was afflicted by God and sought the Lord, humbling himself before Him. **2 Chronicles 33:16 KJV** And he repaired the altar of the LORD, and sacrificed thereon peace offerings and thank offerings, and commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel. Has sin also broken down the altar of your life? You know the sins you are committing, both publicly and secretly. It is time to repair that altar if the altar of your life must receive the fire of God. It was after Elijah repaired the altar that something supernatural happened.

1 Kings 18:33 KJV And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the

wood. Elijah rearranged the wood, setting them in order because they had gone out of order due to the activities of the prophets of Baal. The reason the altar of some people's lives is very cold is simply because the things that should ignite the fire of God in their lives have gone out of order. No more systematic study of God's word, no more prayers and fasting, no more evangelism, praise, and worship, because falsehood and deception have put all these things out of order!

1 Kings 18:38 KJV Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.The fire of the Lord fell. The fire of revival and of extraordinary exploits wants to fall on many today, but their altar has been broken down by the ungodly lifestyle they live. Watching secular films, singing worldly songs, dressing worldly, dancing worldly, resisting the truth of God's word, and speaking ungodly words has broken down the altar of many people's lives. Do you want people to declare concerning you that God is truly God in your life? Are you tired of your state of spiritual paralysis and wretchedness? If so, then repair your altar!

How to Repair the Broken Altar of Your Life

1. **Recognize and accept** the fact that your altar is already broken down.
2. **Humble yourself** before the Lord as Manasseh did in genuine repentance.
3. **Confess all known sins** and determine not to go back to them, because he that covers his sins shall not prosper.
4. **Set the wood in order** as Elijah did. The wood that allows the fire of God to burn in a person, as mentioned above, are the spiritual disciplines.
5. **Determine to follow God** and not sit on the fence.

As you do this, the Lord will repair every broken altar of your life in Jesus' name! Amen.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp +2347067511039 and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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Contacts:
+2347067511039
+2349028350180

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Edited & Compiled by
Joanna O. Obalana
Goodness O. Wande-Oloro
Media Team

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