



sermon notes

Sunday 16th November 2025

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QUITTING IS NOT AN OPTION

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) – “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

- *Masterpiece* = beautiful, intentional, purposeful.
- *Planned long ago* = God created you for an assignment.
- Salvation is not just a “ticket to heaven” - It’s a calling to stand, influence, shift atmospheres.

1. A STORY WITHIN A STORY — ELIJAH & ISRAEL (1 Kings 18)

Israel’s Condition

- The entire nation was under witchcraft, intimidation, confusion, idolatry, temple prostitution.
- Oppressive atmosphere dominated the nation.
- Ahab: the most wicked king Israel had ever had (1 Kings 16:30–33).

God’s Response

God looked for people who could:

- Stand strong in a dark atmosphere
 - Not be intimidated by demonic influence
 - Live differently
 - Carry deep convictions
 - Shift the atmosphere
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- God is looking for men & women again today.
 - Young people, who don’t flow with the crowd.
 - Sometimes the most courageous thing you’ll ever say is a quiet NO.

2. ELIJAH’S PASSION & PRAYER

Elijah was driven by a passion to see his nation return to God.

He prayed a dangerous prayer:

“God, do whatever it takes to get their attention.”

He prayed for a 3.5-year drought.

Challenge:

How passionate are we?

We are not in peace-time—we are in a war:

- For our kids
- For marriages
- For purity & truth
- For unity & identity
- For the spiritual atmosphere of our nation

The Sons of Issachar Principle: (Knew the times & seasons)

HOW? By staying positioned before God.

3. ELIJAH ONLY MOVED WHEN GOD SPOKE

- Elijah hid himself only because God told him to.
- He wasn't moved by:
- People
- Atmosphere
- Demonic influence
- Media
- Pressure

Are we influenced by these things more than the voice of God?

After 3.5 years, God says: "Come out of hiding. Go find Ahab."

4. OBADIAH & THE PROPHETS IN THE CAVE

Obadiah hid 100 prophets in a cave: it sounds noble.

But when Elijah arrives, he basically says:

"What are you doing in the cave?"

In the moment when leaders, intercessors, believers needed to stand—they hid.

The enemy wants believers:

- Quiet
- Discouraged
- Doubting
- Half-hearted
- With no fire

You can be a "good Christian" but still be in a cave—quiet, withdrawn, ineffective.

The fire that once burned is gone.

The story you tell yourself is the story you will live out.

What story are you telling yourself?

5. ELIJAH HAD A STRONG SPIRIT

(Proverbs 18:14)

Many have lost capacity, shrunk on the inside.

We MUST build a strong spirit.

Why do we need a strong spirit?

Without the flow of the Spirit:

- We rely on willpower
- We operate in self-effort
- We lose sensitivity to God
- It becomes tiring, confusing, and discouraging

You don't get a strong spirit by accident. You build it:

- Time with the Lord
- Word of God
- Alignment
- Praying in tongues
- Consistency
- Serving others

The enemy wants you shut down because he knows how effective you are when your spirit is strong.

Daniel 11:32

"The people who KNOW their God shall be strong and do great exploits."

Intimacy - Strength - Exploits.

Do you know God, or just know about Him?

6. CAVES: WHAT THEY REPRESENT

Caves

- Hiding
- Withdrawal
- Victim mindset
- Justification
- Indulgence
- "Me and Jesus only"
- Self-love culture
- Attitudes, hurt, doubt, fear, intimidation

A silent believer is no better than a dead one - especially in a nation in crisis.

7. THE DANGER OF RETREATING

Caves distort perspective:

- You lose vision
- You can't see what God is doing
- You see only problems
- You shrink
- Prayer weakens
- No authority
- No anointing
- Isolation leads to spiritual death

CAVES EVENTUALLY BECOME GRAVES.

Graves for dreams, relationships, calling, purpose.

8. ELIJAH SAYS: COME OUT OF THE CAVE

Elijah moves to confront Ahab - the very thing that intimidated others.

Ahab calls him “*troubler of Israel*” (gaslighting).

Elijah ignores the accusation and says:

“Meet me on Mount Carmel!”

Stop reasoning with the enemy.

Stop negotiating with fear.

Stop explaining your calling.

Speak truth. Stand up.

You must confront what caused you to retreat.

- Name it
- Repent of partnering with it
- Choose to come out
- Process & get healing
- Stand up again

MEET IT ON MOUNT CARMEL.

Don’t avoid it—address it head on.

9. TRUTH ENCOUNTER BEFORE POWER ENCOUNTER

1 Kings 18:21 – Elijah calls out compromise.

The middle ground disappears.

Before a power encounter comes a truth encounter.

10. PAUL - 2 Corinthians 4:7–12 TPT

Clay jars = fragile, ordinary...

But carrying immeasurable power—God’s power.

We face pressure but are not crushed.

Knocked down but not out.

Quitting is not an option.

God’s glory is displayed through weak people who keep standing.

Pressure reveals whether we turn toward God or run from Him.

11. ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE (2 Corinthians 4:16–18 TPT)

- Outer person wears out
- Inner man renewed daily
- Troubles are temporary
- We fix our eyes on the unseen
- Eternity reframes difficulty

12. DON’T QUIT: REENGAGE YOUR CALLING

Many treat God like a genie - when He doesn’t perform, they withdraw.

But believers must learn to stand under pressure, not blame, not quit.

There is power, grit, resilience, strength that comes only from staying engaged.

If you’ve drawn back, it’s time to reengage.

CALL TO RESPONSE

God’s not done with you yet.

Your story isn't over.

Don't quit.

Come out of the cave.

Reengage your assignment.