

Elijah - The Power of God

1 Kings 18:20-46

Elijah and Israel (18:20-40)

- Sincerity & Discernment -

1. It is the Word of God that must direct our passion, not our passions guiding or manipulating the Word of God. (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22; 1 John 4:1)
2. Sincerity is great but it must always be tested with spiritual discernment.
 1. Desire, pursue, and pray for spiritual discernment - Philippians 1:9-10
 2. The context for discernment is the body of Christ - Psalms 73:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21
 3. The attitude of discernment is humility - Isaiah 66:2; Proverbs 13:20
 4. Discernment requires obedience and immersion in the Word of God - Psalms 119:9-11, 100
3. The less we know of God's Word the less we should trust our first instincts, we should search the Word of God and wait upon God and wise counsel.
4. Discernment is vital in discerning the will of God; identifying the presence and work of the Holy Spirit; discerning worldliness; overseeing the exercise of spiritual gifts, separating truth from error, deciding disputes between believers and between believers and non-believers, and in protecting new believers from false doctrine.
5. The barrenness of the hillsides of Mount Carmel was a picture of Israel's spiritual barrenness.

Elijah and God (18:41-46)

Conclusion: We must learn to "diminish or eliminate the influence" of those who would lead us away from God and His truth. Don't be deceived by sincerity.

2. We live in a world of idols and idolatry and it compromises our hearts to 'limp' between God and idols.
3. Prayer is the language of our most important relationship.

Language #1 is the language of relationship
Language #2 is the language of information
Language #3 is the language of motivation
4. We learn to pray from two sources: people who pray in front of us and from Scripture.