

(re)BUILD | PART 1

PASTOR NATHAN ELMS

Kings 18

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people approached him. And he repaired and rebuilt the [old] altar of the Lord that had been torn down [by Jezebel]. 31 Then Elijah took twelve stones in accordance with the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name." 32 So with the stones Elijah built an altar in the name of the Lord. He made a trench around the altar large enough to hold [d]two measures of seed. 33 Then he laid out the wood and cut the ox in pieces and laid it on the wood. 34 And he said, "Fill four pitchers with water and pour it on the burnt offering and the wood." 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 a third time. 35 The water flowed around the altar, and he also filled the trench with water.

ELIJAH'S PRAYER

36 At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet approached [the altar] and said, "O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel (Jacob), let it be known today that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and that I have done all these things at Your word. 37 Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that You, O Lord, are God, and that You have turned their hearts back [to You]." 38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood, and even the stones and the dust; it also licked up the water in the trench. 39 When all the people saw it, they fell face downward; and they said, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!"

MAKING HARD CHANGES IN ME

"As God's Spirit works within us, we are being transformed to become more like Christ. This change, from one degree of glory to another, comes from the Lord."

2 Corinthians 3:18

GOD IS WORKING ON US THROUGH HIS SPIRIT!

WE CAN QUENCH HIS SPIRIT!

EPHESIANS 4:11-32 – 6 ELEMENTS GOD USES

WHY ARE PERSONAL DEFECTS SO HARD TO CHANGE?

- They have become a habit!
- I confuse what I do with how I am!
- My bad habits are my usually my coping mechanisms!
- Satan leverages my sin

WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR REAL CHANGE TO HAPPEN?

1. REAL CHANGE BEGINS WITH A RENEWED MIND

"There must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes."

Ephesians 4:23 (NLT)

"Don't keep living as the ungodly do, for they are hopelessly confused in their thinking. Their closed minds are full of darkness; they're far away from the LIFE God gives because they have shut their minds and hardened their hearts against him. They don't care anymore about right and wrong, and they've indulged themselves in all kinds of immorality, evil thinking, and the constant desire for more." **Ephesians 4:17-19**

"Do not conform to the values and opinions of this world. Instead let God transform you by teaching you the right and true way to think." **Romans 12:2**

"Let the Spirit change your way of thinking." **Ephesians 4:23 (CEV)**

2. REAL CHANGE REQUIRES YOU TO SUBMIT YOUR NARRATIVE TO GOD'S TRUTH

Jesus: "Use the truth to make them complete. Your Word is truth." **John 17:17**

"Then we will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or made a lie sound like the truth. Instead, we will hold to the truth in love, becoming more and more like Christ, who is the head of his Body, the church." **Ephesians 4:14-15 (NLT)**

"Since you have heard all about Him, you have learned the truth that is in Jesus..." **Ephesians 4:21**

3. REAL CHANGE REQUIRES WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR MIND/SPIRIT TO BEGIN TO BE EXPRESSED IN YOUR PRACTICAL CHOICES

"So get rid of your old self, which made you live as you used to —the old self that was being destroyed by its deceitful desires." **Ephesians 4:22 (TEV)**

"We must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially any sin that distracts us, so we can run the race that lies ahead of us!" **Hebrews 12:1 (GW)**

4. REAL CHANGE REQUIRES HONEST SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

"No more pretense! Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ's Body we're all connected to each other. So if you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself."

Ephesians 4:25 (MSG)

"Be kind and loving to each other, forgiving each other just as God forgave you in Christ." **Ephesians 4:32**

"Never use harmful words but speak only what's helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." **Ephesians 4:29**

5. MENTORS MATTER

"Christ gifted some of us to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, so that his people would learn to serve and his Body would grow strong. This will continue until we're united by our faith and understanding of the Son of God. Then we will be mature, just as Christ is, and we will be completely like him." **Ephesians 4:11-13 (CEV)**

6. AS YOU MAKES CHANGES YOU MUST NOT BASE YOUR CONFIDENCE ON YOUR ACTIONS. YOUR CONFIDENCE MUST REMAIN IN GOD AND HIS POWER. FAITH CANNOT END WITH WORKS.

"Now, by his mighty power at work within us, God is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of – infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes." **Ephesians 3:20 (LB)**

"I can do all things through Christ who empowers me. I am ready for anything through Him who infuses inner strength into me!" **Philippians 4:13 (Amp)**

Jesus: *"According to your faith will it be done to you."* **Matthew 9:29**

LET'S GO BACK TO ELIJAH? IF GOD CAN ANSWER BY FIRE, WHY WON'T HE BUILD THE ALTAR?

BECAUSE ALL SPIRITUAL PROGRESS IS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD.