

November 12, 2008

Dear Friends,

Is anyone feeling **BURNED OUT?! I have a word of encouragement for you. Following a powerful ministry experience this past weekend, I spent two days off tending to family responsibilities. You would think that 2 days would be plenty, but upon arriving at my office this morning, I found myself empty. Not of joy, but empty in my ability to organize or get my mind around a priority list. Knowing that CCM staff, youth ministers, and pastors are waiting for me to finalize various ministry details. I felt the crunch...but no motivation. As I began my Bible study, God directed me to I Kings 19, the account of Elijah's burnout. As I read and reflected on the principles of that scripture, my phone rang. I don't usually pick it up during my quiet time, but I felt led to answer. On the other end was a pastor friend who lives some 8 hours away. He asked what I was doing, and I candidly began to share that God was reminding me how to deal with burnout. He asked, "How do you do that?" After I shared the principles of Elijah with him, he replied, "That is why I called." He was driving down the road feeling overwhelmed with his ministry and ready to throw his hands up. God put me on his heart. We talked over I Kings 19 and prayed. Both of us were encouraged to continue in "the work" as we hung up the phones.**

Isn't God's timing awesome?! He prompted me to read. He prompted my friend to call. He used us both to minister to the other. As you consider this testimony of God's faithfulness, think about the following observations of Elijah's burnout and renewal.

- **Elijah had been involved in great spiritual victories (recently).**
- **Jezebel's threat was simply the "straw that broke the camel's back."**
- **Elijah had ALREADY QUIT, when God's angel met him in the wilderness.**
- **God did not ignore Elijah's need for rest, but led him on a 40 day journey of renewal.**
- **Through stillness, God encouraged Elijah to BE AWARE of the helpers He had surrounded him with.**
- **While ministering to Elijah's tired spirit, God taught him how to ENTRUST OTHERS.**

God is big enough to start the work. God is big enough to finish it (all by Himself). God is big enough to surround you with others who can carry the load. Take a day off!! Let God be God. Entrust the people around you and go on a journey. You and everyone around you will be glad when you come back...RENEWED and FIRED UP!!

A servant,

Dale Elwell

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