

**First Church of God  
November 11, 2012  
Pastor Robert G. White**

**"How God Uses other Church Family In Our  
Lives"**

**I Kings 19:1-20**

<sup>1</sup>Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup>So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them."

<sup>3</sup>Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, <sup>4</sup>while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." <sup>5</sup>Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." <sup>6</sup>He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

<sup>7</sup>The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." <sup>8</sup>So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by the food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>9</sup>There he went into a cave and spent the night.

And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

<sup>10</sup>He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put

your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

<sup>11</sup>The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.”

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. <sup>12</sup>After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. <sup>13</sup>When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

<sup>14</sup>He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

<sup>15</sup>The Lord said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. <sup>16</sup>Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. <sup>17</sup>Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. <sup>18</sup>Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him.”

<sup>19</sup> So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. <sup>20</sup>Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. “Let me kiss my father and mother good-by,” he said, “and then I will come with you.”

“Go back,” Elijah replied, “What have I done to you?”

## INTRODUCTION

**Question:** How does God use others in your life?

### I. God uses others to **alleviate** our fears.

**Point:** **Fear** worked against him...  
**I Kings 19:2**

<sup>2</sup> So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.”

## DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY?

### Questions:

- Do you often want to **isolate** yourself and shut the door?
- Do you tend to slide into **depression** and no longer care.
- Do you **avoid** meaningful conversations, and **shun** groups?
- Do you **shun** responsibilities and **avoid** any sense of accountability?

### I Kings 19:3

“Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day’s journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die.”

**Point:** Truth is – God has designed the Christian life so that he works through others.

## FOUR WAYS HE DOES THAT:

- A. We receive **sympathy**. **I Peter 3:8a** “You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other...”

- B. We **cry** together. **I Corinthians 12:26** “If one member suffers, all suffer together...”
- C. We receive **encouragement**. **II Thessalonians 5:11** “Encourage each other and strengthen one another.”
- D. We fulfill our **purpose** in being the hands and feet of our Lord. **Hebrews 13:1** “Keep being concerned about each other as the Lord’s followers should.”

## II. GOD USES OTHERS TO COMPENSATE FOR OUR **SOUL** FATIGUE.

Elijah was **physically** tired, but his **soul** was temporarily broken.

### I Kings 19:3

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there,

He received **counsel** from God while lying under a juniper tree.

### I Kings 19:7

The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.”

### Key: God’s answer to soul fatigue.

**LIVE** In community and **DO** your mission **together**.

## HOW SOUL FATIGUE IS CONFRONTED

- A. By **Caring** with your heart and hands. **Ecclesiastes 4:10** “If one person falls, another can reach out and help. But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble.”

B. By **Working** together for the benefit of the whole.

**T**ogether  
**E**verybody  
**A**chieves  
**M**ore

**Galatians 6:10** "Every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with people closest to us in community faith.

C. By genuinely opening up your **heart** to friendships.

**II Timothy 1:7** "The Holy Spirit doesn't want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and enjoy being with them."

### III. GOD USES OTHERS TO **MOTIVATE** OUR WALK WITH GOD.

- Elijah found a cave and **hid** for a time, and God **comforted** him.

**I Kings 19:9** "Then he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here?"

### ELIJAH HAD COMMON OBJECTIONS TO GROWTH.

**I Kings 19:10**

<sup>10</sup>He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

a. I have served **God** all these years...

b. God is asleep and really does not **care**.

### THE TWO ELEMENTS OF TRUE COMMUNITY

1. **Love** for others.

**John 13:35** "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples

**Forgiveness**

**Acceptance**

**Love - Agape**

found only in the church (God's community).

2. **Interdependence** -

**Philippians 1:27** "...You are working together and struggling side by side to get others to believe the Good News.