

Where are we Waiting for God?

1 Kings 19:9-14

1. Ordinary Concepts of God

God as the judge

God as the rule of the universe

God the Almighty

God who created the universe from nothing

God whom we cannot face directly

Etcetera.

But throughout the course of creation God has worked calmly, step by step, and in an orderly manner. His Spirit was moving upon the waters at the beginning of the creation. How serene and gentle His voice was throughout the history of restoration!

For example:

He not only scolded Adam and Eve after the fall, but made coats of skins for them (Genesis 3:21).

He set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him (Genesis 4:15.)

God guided Abraham so considerately.

God encouraged Jacob so kindly and closely.

2. Elijah's Experience (1 Kings 19:9-14)

Neither in the wind nor in the earthquake nor in the fire was God. God comes to us with a quiet voice. Whenever our mental state is not stable, God cannot dwell among us and he cannot work with us. The same is true in the case of an individual, family, nation, etc.

God cannot work where there is no harmony. He cannot stay where there is destruction, conflict, etc. He cannot stay where there is complaint, anger, jealousy, or envy on the individual, societal, or national level.

e.g. When Israelites complained of their situation at the time of Moses, God could not work with them.

3. In what situation are we going to meet God?

The essence of faith is not a matter of form but of communication with God. Where and through what events can we meet Him? Not through big events or revival meetings! Such occasions may be helpful in providing us a first chance to get in touch with Him, but God hopes to be with us in our everyday life, secretly, closely, and quietly.

People tend to look for God when they have fallen into an unhappy situation or when they cannot see their near future. But God wants to live with us in our everyday life, not only in times of tribulation. The God who has been with us in our everyday life must be with us in tribulation or emergency. We cannot expect God to be with us in tribulation if we have not developed our everyday relationship with Him. God cannot easily come to us when our minds are in a whirlwind. In order to exterminate the prophets of Ba'al, Elijah laid a foundation, made his best effort, and prayed. During his quiet prayer, God started working.

God visits with us in a secret voice, in the voice of mystery and harmony.

When Nathaniel came to Jesus, Jesus said to him that he had seen him beneath the fig tree. Nathaniel did not know, but God had been working secretly.

Even though God has been whispering to us, we haven't always heard him. We were so busy dealing with the satanic world that we did not know His mysterious visits, His calling us in a gentle voice, etc. We could not hear Him because of our greed, egoism, and anger.

Whoever realizes God's quiet working will not perish.