



## WEEK 4 DEVOTIONAL

### TRIAL BY FIRE | Choosing to Live with No More Bull

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#### RECEIVE

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Slowly. Prayerfully, read and/or listen to **1 Kings 18:1–2, 16–41**, two times. Before and after each reading, pray asking the Spirit of Christ to guide you into knowing and living what you are receiving from the Scriptures. Consider, what does God want you to reflect on and learn from?

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#### REFLECT

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1. Thinking of this sermon series and what you've learned thus far, how has God revealed His sovereignty, grace and justice throughout the Scriptures?
2. In chapter 18, how would you summarize what was accomplished between Elijah and the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel? Why was this event important for God's people?
3. What does Elijah understand about God's personality and character? Consider this in contrast to Baal.
4. What are the key requests in Elijah's prayer in verses 36–37?

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## RESPOND

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1. From following Elijah through today's lessons, which of the lessons most resonates with you right now on your journey? Why?

Share your answer with someone. Now, reflect on ways you can live into that lesson in your everyday life (remember we are not after information but transformation).

- When sin infects the life of a powerful person, the damage flows down. Above all else, guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life. Proverbs 4:23
- Pray for kings and all those in high positions, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives. 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- Reaching out with, recognizing and receiving GRACE is the key to hope in life. 1 Kings 18:1
- When you are spiritually lost, the people God sends to help set you right often look like enemies. 1 Kings 18:17
- If you want to start restoring your relationship with God or with someone else repair an altar. 1 Kings 18:30
- If God is truly GOD then He deserves our personal, primary and undivided devotion. 1 Kings 18:21
- Christ's sacrifice on the Cross was God's "repair attempt"  
– a blazing act of amazing grace designed to call us back into relationship with Him. The Cross unleashed a RAIN and REIGN of grace that continues to wash all who want to be bathed in it.

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## RESOURCES

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As we start this new series it's often helpful to know the context and a little background about the Book as it can help inform our understanding of the stories shared. Take a few minutes and watch this overview of the [Book of Kings by the Bible Project](#)

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## SCRIPTURE

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### **1 Kings 18:1–2** New International Version

After a long time, in the third year, the word of the LORD came to Elijah: “Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land.”<sup>2</sup> So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria.

### **1 Kings 18:16-41** New International Version

<sup>16</sup> So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah. <sup>17</sup> When he saw Elijah, he said to him, “Is that you, you troubler of Israel?” <sup>18</sup> “I have not made trouble for Israel,” Elijah replied. “But you and your father’s family have. You have abandoned the LORD’s commands and have followed the Baals. <sup>19</sup> Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.” <sup>20</sup> So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. <sup>21</sup> Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” But the people said nothing. <sup>22</sup> Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only one of the LORD’s prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. <sup>23</sup> Get two bulls for us. Let Baal’s prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. <sup>24</sup> Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire—he is God.” Then all the people said, “What you say is good.” <sup>25</sup> Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.” <sup>26</sup> So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “Baal, answer us!” they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered.

And they danced around the altar they had made. <sup>27</sup> At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.” <sup>28</sup> So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. <sup>29</sup> Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention. <sup>30</sup> Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come here to me.” They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which had been torn down. <sup>31</sup> Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Your name shall be Israel.” <sup>32</sup> With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. <sup>33</sup> He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.” <sup>34</sup> “Do it again,” he said, and they did it again. “Do it a third time,” he ordered, and they did it the third time. <sup>35</sup> The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench. <sup>36</sup> At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. <sup>37</sup> Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.” <sup>38</sup> Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. <sup>39</sup> When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!” <sup>40</sup> Then Elijah commanded them, “Seize the prophets of Baal. Don’t let anyone get away!” They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there. <sup>41</sup> And Elijah said to Ahab, “Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain.”