

Father, this evening, one more time, this year, the last moments of 2022 speak to us. Help is to look back. Bring to our remembrance the days that have passed by, cause us to examine ourselves because we want to start with You fresh, new, strong. 2023 is ahead of us, we do not know what lies ahead but we know Who has gone before us; You are outside time, You have seen the end from the beginning, You have gone before us that is why this evening our eyes are on You and our ears are open to Your Word, to Your Spirit. Speak to us, let faith arise. Give us hearing ears and believing hearts, a mind that understands because Your words are Spirit and life, they are life. We have come into Your house for life and You came to give us life. Even today and even tomorrow after the service we will go with more of Your life and less of ours. Speak to us Lord, speak to us. For in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

2022 is almost over and the promise still stands there – Restore. But some of you may be wondering, ‘Lord, I believed, I hoped, I prayed, I waited and I am still waiting.’ What we need to understand about God is, with God when He says something it is always done. It is because we are caught in time and we do not see. But we will see if we believe. If we have heard, we have believed then stand firm, God says, ‘It is done!’ “If you believe,” He told Mary and Martha, “you will see...” with God it is always – Done! In *Ephesians 1:3* He says that you are blessed. Not that you will be blessed but you **are** blessed. *You are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus in the heavenly places.*

In *2 Peter*, He says

2 Peter 1:3

³ as His divine power has given (not, will give us, but has given us) to us all thing0s that pertains to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.

So when God speaks and you know that you have heard clearly, then our job is to believe. And our job is to stand by faith. Do not look at the clock, don't look at the calendar, yes years will pass, months may pass but His promises stand forever. It will come to pass because it is already done.

1 Peter 2:24

²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

Not, you will be healed; **you were healed**. God lives in a completely different realm from ours. There is no time there. The book of Revelation talks about time when time is rolled up like a scroll. That is why Bible says that He has no beginning and He has no end. And Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. So when you have received a promise, though we are entering into 2023 and He will be giving us a new promise that doesn't mean that this has failed. No, it hasn't failed, He says, it is done. For in some cases, like restoration, as in reconciliation in homes and families it is more than one person's will involved. When more than one person is involved there are other factors that go into play. The easiest is to receive your own personal miracle. It is much easier. Especially when it comes to healing and you are sick because there is nobody else involved in it. But when a second person is involved, a third person is involved, don't give up. Hang in there. So if we have believed, stand firm.

So this evening as we stand at the end of the year, we first turn to *2 Corinthians 13:5*

2 Corinthians 13:5

⁵ Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

So it is good to spend the next one hour examining ourselves. And as we examine ourselves we will also see what God has to say to us this year. Let the Spirit of God bring to our remembrance the past 12 months, 365 days. It's different in each one of our lives. So the first scripture for tonight is *1 Kings 18:21*,

1 Kings 18:21

²¹ And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

We are at the end of the year, are they still people here faltering between two opinions in spite of hearing the Word for 52 Sundays non-stop? 52 Sundays are over. Are you still faltering between two opinions? The voice of this great prophet, standing on Mount Carmel, probably around 3000 plus years ago, still rings through the ages – How long? How long will you falter between two opinions. Joshua said the same thing.

Make up your mind before you enter 2023. Make up your mind, only one opinion, not two. Joshua said the same things to the second generation of Israel that came out of Egypt. And Jesus says the same things at the end of the age to the Church of Laodicea. Either be hot or be cold. In short, through the tongue of three different people, the Spirit of God is saying the same thing, - 'Make up your mind. How long will you falter?'

Elijah is one of the most unique persons in human history and in Biblical history, there is practically nobody like him in the Bible. On that day, on Mount Carmel, he single handedly brings revival to a Nation. He single handedly turns a Nation back to God. Before Jesus came to begin the work of the redemption, in *Luke 1:17*, God had said about John the Baptist,

Luke 1:17

¹⁷ He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

When God looked at 4000 years of human history before His Son came and He looked at all the people He had used down the centuries, He says, 'You know what? To find a person to prepare the people's heart for My Son it is Elijah. That Spirit that was upon him that is the Spirit I will lay upon John the Baptist.' 2000 years have passed we are very close to the end of this age before the second coming of Jesus Christ. Everything that you see, around the world, everything that is happening is a precursor, the warning and the signs that He said will happen are increasing in measure because His coming is very near. And when that happens, or before that happens, He says,

Malachi 4:5-6

⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

When Jesus came the first time it was not a dreadful day; it was the hour of the Lord's salvation. It was a good day, it was a blessed day. But when He comes a second time He is coming apart from sin, not to save but to judge. But even then in His mercy and compassion, as God always is, He says, "Before that happens once again I will send the same Spirit that was upon person or probably the same person." Who is that? Elijah. What will he do? ***⁶ And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."*** And we believe that we are going to see, before Jesus comes, an unprecedented move of the Spirit of God. That is why don't give up, there is restoration going to take place. There is salvation going to take place like never before because He said, 'One more time before I will I will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children back to the fathers.' There will be reconciliation, there will be restoration, there will be salvation.

But in the context of what we are looking at tonight, Elijah comes and asks this question – 'How long? How long will you falter?' like I said, 52 Sundays are over. How much more time do we need? You need to look at the context in which he is speaking. This was probably one of the worst periods of suffering in Israel's history as a Nation; 3 and half years of drought, famine and suffering like they have never experienced before. And the reason? Look at what he says,

1 Kings 17:1

¹And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."

We have heard about it not raining for a long season but even in those places if you wake up early morning and see there is dew on the ground. Mankind doesn't know what it is to live without dew on the earth, but what Elijah said is this, 'Until the word of the Lord comes from my mouth again for this Nation there is going to be neither rain nor dew. That earth is parched, absolutely parched, there is no water, it is dry, there is no moisture in the air, there is nothing for 3 and half years. Do you know what? All these hardships have not changed the hearts of the people.

The past few years have been extremely unprecedented hardship for people around the world, we came through an unbelievable pandemic and lockdowns and war and famine in many places. That is why I said we are blessed because we are looking at people here who got their promotions and jobs and better jobs in other countries while companies were laying off people in their 1000s in the very sector where you were promoted. So all these things happened, but were they willing to make a commitment? And the Word of God records that the people said Nothing.

Do you have anything to say before the year ends? They are not willing to make any commitment. No commitment. I am praying before this year ends that somebody here or listening online, more than one person, will commit themselves, 'Lord, this whole year I was vacillating between two opinions, between the world and God, between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdoms of this world I was vacillating but Lord before this year ends I am committing myself to You. I don't want this year to pass, I want to commit, I want to surrender.'

The Word of God says that the people said nothing. Jesus said, 'If you don't gather with Me you will scatter.' He said, 'If you are not with Me, you are against Me.' See at the end of the day they are only two side, there are no three sides. In the heavenly realm there is no Switzerland. There are only two sides; with God or against God; with Jesus or against Jesus. And they were not willing to commit themselves. My prayer for 2022 before the year ends is – commit yourself, wholly, completely. And if you look at all the trouble they have come through, gone through, the source of their troubles (now I am talking to believers. I am talking to those who are saved, they who belong to the Kingdom of God, those who are God's people), our troubles are not similar to the troubles of the people in the world; though it may look common it is not the same. Even two people going through the same trouble outwardly, inwardly it is not the same, because when God's people go through something go to the source of your trouble. Let's look at the source of their trouble.

1 Kings 18:17-18

¹⁷Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?" ¹⁸And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals.

This is when Elijah confronts the king Ahab. Three reasons given there for the source of our troubles:

1. Unwilling to take personal responsibility for our own sins, our own failures and our own disobedience. Personal responsibility.

Ahab is personally responsible for the mess that is in Israel. The mess that people are in started with him and his wife queen Jezebel. But he refuses to accept it and he blames the prophets who shut the heavens down. The prophet is just a voice, he is just a mouth piece, he can't shut the heavens. It is God who told him and he spoke.

2. You have forsaken the commandments of the Lord. They have forsaken their God.
3. You have followed the baals or the idols.

Three reasons are given. We are not willing to take personal responsibility. God does not come to condemn; He comes to convict. Even in the beginning, in the Garden, when He was looking for Adam He was not coming to condemn but to convict. He is the One who searches for them and asks the question – Where are you? But Adam doesn't take responsibility, he says, 'The woman...' the woman doesn't take responsibility, she said, 'The snake...' finally 4000 years later God comes as Man, as Jesus, goes to the Cross and says, "I take responsibility for their mess." And God says, "I will forgive them, everyone who believes in You, I will take their mess, put it on You and I will take Your righteousness and put it on them and let them go." That is why we are here. Otherwise we wouldn't be here, I wouldn't be here.

The reason is God stepped down and took man's responsibility. And He went on the Cross for my sins and your sins.

So the first thing God asks us tonight is, look back, take personal responsibility – 'Lord, I messed up. I didn't listen to Your commandment. It was very clear, I didn't listen, I didn't follow. And I followed idols.'

What is an idol? What is baal or an idol? The Bible begins in the very, very, different way. *In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth.* The real God, the living God, the Creator God stands apart from everybody else. There are we, humans, on earth and there are the other realms where there are the angelic hosts and demons. The Bible calls them gods. But all are created, there is only one Creator; He stands apart. He is the source of everything and He should be our point of reference in life. An idol is a person/place/thing/idea/opinion that takes the place of God in our lives. Even a place, in the New Covenant even a place.

So you know why there is a church here? It is because we came. If we choose to go outside and have a service in the parking lot then that becomes the church. A church is not a place; it is where God's people gather – *where two or three gather in My Name I will be in their midst.* Sometimes people are attached to their places and that place of worship becomes their idol. Christians go to Jerusalem, they go to Rome. But to the Samaritan woman Jesus said, 'It doesn't work that way.' So idols can be a person, it can be a place, it can be a thing, it can be an idea. Anything that replaces God in your life becomes an idol. Elijah says, 'You have forsaken the real God and have followed the false gods.'

Baal is a god of convenience. With Baal you never have to worry; there is no conviction with Baal. Baal is a god of convenience. Did you worship a very convenient god in 2022? Meaning you worshiped Him when it was convenient for you?

I had this forward sent by a friend from Atlanta. It was a very stunning forward, a pastor's words:

'You think I am a prostitute so that you can come to Me for intimacy as you please.'

- Jesus

Think about it - "You think I am a prostitute that you can come to Me whenever you want intimacy at your own convenience," Jesus.

A god of convenience? Have we made God baal? That is why they are not saying anything. Three and half years of incredible suffering will still not make them committed because they want a god of convenience.

1 Kings 18:22

22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. And there were another 400 of Ashereth too.

He says, 'I am out-numbered. 1 to 450, 1 to 950, 1 to 1000.' He says, 'I am out-numbered.' Not just the false prophets who were a 1000, but also the people, the soldiers, the king, everybody. Can you imagine a man, standing on a mountain, all alone and the rest of the crowd is on the other side, he is out-numbered. It is not a name of a Hollywood movie; it was Elijah's reality. Committed Christians do not mind being out-numbered because they know their God. They have very strong convictions, even when they live and work in pagan or secular cultures. Noah stood all alone, Joseph stood alone, Daniel stood alone, Esther stood alone.

Did you stand alone in your work-place? Or did you compromise? You might have been out-numbered and the things that you were asked to do could have compromised what you believe in. Did you stand alone? Or were you out-numbered? In your class-room? For God is looking for witnesses. His witnesses. Elijah says, 'I am out-numbered. I alone am left. All others have been killed and God hid me alone.'

In the book of revelation, in the Church in Smyrna and the church in Philadelphia are standing alone. While the last days church Laodicea has melted into the world. You look at Laodicea and you look at the world there is no difference. That's why Jesus comes there, knocks and says, 'I am outside.'

If you are committing yourself, pray, 'Lord, help me stand alone if need be in 2023. I will not falter between two opinions, tonight I am making my mind up. I pray that I will have a brother/sister to stand beside me, for two is better than one, when one falls the other can lift him up. But when the Son of Man came to His last days He was alone. On the

Cross He was alone, all the others left Him, but He was alone. Before the year ends, the first resolution you make is, 'Lord, I want to commit myself to You.'

There was a test offered by Elijah. Elijah doesn't require the test to know who the real God is. The test is being offered to people who are not committed. The test is for them, the test was not for him. He said, 'This is what will happen. You are all on that side, I alone am this side. We shall have two altars. You take your animal which you want to sacrifice, you prepare it and you offer it. I will give you first chance; a head start. I will give you all the time you want. After that if you fail it is my turn. The condition is this – no lighting the fire. The God who answers from Heaven by fire that is the real God.'

1 Kings 18:24

²⁴ Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God." So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

They are still not committed. They are still standing there between two opinions and saying, 'We will not make a decision. Let us see the fire then we will make up our mind.' Understand this – what they need is rain but the test is for fire. Rain in the Old Covenant we know what it means; it means blessings. What people need are blessings but the prophet offers fire. For fire burns, fire purges, fire cleanses. The real living and true God is not just defined by blessings, in Heaven His character is defined by holiness. That is why if this is your first day in the church you will not understand why we are saying, 'Thank You Lord for Your mercies. Thank You Lord, thank You Lord. Thank You, thank You, thank You...' it is because this is what God said, "If you see My face you will die." And we are not consumed because of His mercies. No man outside of Christ can make it to heaven, because that is who God is. We saw from Isaiah that the angels covered their eyes and the cry from heaven is, 'Holy! Holy! Holy!' when we see the holiness of God only then will we understand the mercy of God. We are not talking about the human holiness; we are talking about the holiness of God.

So what he prophet offers the people before the blessing is fire. Get it right. That is the way it should be. Before God blesses us in 2023 let Him clean us out. Let Him purge us out, all of us, so that the blessings don't destroy us.

The prophets of baal prepared their altars, cut the animal, put it on the top, they shouted, they sang, they screamed, they jumped, they danced, they cut themselves to invoke their gods, all day long and there was not even a spark. Please understand this, all the religions put together cannot produce holiness. Holiness is of God and in Christ. Holiness, fire representing holiness is of God and in Christ. You can be the best in any religion but it won't produce the holiness of God. You can sing and worship till you lose your voice, you can dance and jump, you can fast and pray but it is not going to produce holiness unless God gives it because holiness is of God and in Christ. Get that right.

They did it all on that day, on Mount Carmel. But what do you hear? Silence, absolute silence; nothing from heaven. The priests of baal tried every trick in the book they knew, but no response. Like I said, don't misunderstand, our God is a God of blessing – *for God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son*. Our God is a God of blessing and we saw in the beginning that he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus, in the heavenly places - *Ephesians 1:3*. His divine power has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness – *2 Peter 1:3*

Ephesians 3:20

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, that is Christ in us.

Romans 8:32

³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Our God is a God of blessings. Our God is a God of love. Our God is a God of mercy. But He is also a God who is holy. Everything He does is in Christ, with Christ, nothing apart from Christ. Evening is falling, dusk is coming. If you were there with Elijah on Mount Carmel, if you looked around darkness is covering the earth but there is still light at the top of the

mountain. Their time is up. We know he scorned them, he mocked them, he ridiculed them and all but nothing made a difference. It only made them jump higher but nothing happened.

1 Kings 18:30

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.

One last time, this year 2022, one last time from behind the pulpit, through my voice Jesus is calling, 'Come near.' One last time this year, "Come near to Me." Every Sunday I say that before the Word begins, 'There are seats vacant, come near. If you don't have little children that who have to take care of, come near. It is an act of faith. Come near.' It is because every person in my life I have noticed, who left the church were those who sat at the back and refused to come near. Positions matter. And those who sat in the front, before they left they went to the back and a few weeks later they left. The call keeps on coming from God, 'Come near! Come near! Come near!' in 2022 if you have been far away this 31st night come near. If you have been near, come closer. He is one Person in your entire life-time who will never say, 'You are too close to Me.' He may clean you up, but He will never push you away.

So if you are far away come close. If you have been near, draw closer. That is what Elijah is saying. Do you have to wait till all your idols fail before you come closer to God? All their idols have failed, all the prophets of their idols have failed. And they are still standing there and waiting, not willing to draw near. Do you have to wait like the thief on that side? He was blessed because next to him the one who was crucified was Jesus, at least in his last breath he saw, he believed, he drew near and he got saved.

This week in the news, every time in the morning when I check the news I was surprised. Every headline of any country, the headline was always about somebody dying/dead, before the year is over. And in the evening when I was just finishing and coming to church I read, 'Oh! Pope Benedict also went.' That is the Pope I liked, unlike the current one. He was much more conservative, much more; much more of a believing person. You have to read his last words, powerful, very powerful. It looks like a man who encountered Jesus. Do we have to wait till all our idols and our idols dreams to fail before we draw close to God? Look at the waste of a life. You don't have to wait until the dust and the dryness creeps into your bones. It hasn't rained for three and half years, no dew either. Israel must have been dustier than Hyderabad. Yet they are not drawing near.

Of course God is a God of all power and might. What is beyond man is possible for God, can these bones live? The bones are dry and He tells the servant of God, "Prophesy to these dry bones." Any bones that are dry today I prophesy to you, hear the voice of the Lord, draw near to Him. You are as dry as you can be inside, no dew, no rain. It is all symbolic of the Holy Spirit. Nothing, absolutely nothing. You have been playing religion right in this church but dry inside. Draw near. Let your inner man hear the voice of the Lord calling you, 'Come!' all who are weary and heavy laden Jesus said, 'Come!' all who are thirsty He said, 'Come!'

Why am I calling you from here, 'Come!?' It is because it is written in the final chapter of the Bible – *the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'* when the Spirit of God says, 'Come!' there has to be voice on earth to repeat it, 'Come!' before you can hear it. Therefore I stand here and I am requesting you, 'Come!' the Spirit alone doesn't say, the Bride has to repeat from here, 'Come!' That is why God is always looking for a man who will stand in the gap. And Elijah was that man. Three different generations, Israel was hurdling down into darkness and that man stood alone. 4000 years of humanity, he came out of the wilderness and said, 'I am a voice in the wilderness preparing for the voice of the Lord.' And just before Jesus comes to judge this world once more that spirit of Elijah will be released, I pray, through a 1000 million voice, calling the people, 'Come! Come near! One more chance, come near before it is too late. Come!'

Don't wait like the prodigal son. Don't wait where you have reached the end of your rope where you are willing to eat the food fed to the pigs but even that was not given to him, then he came to his senses. Don't wait till then. Forget all the failures of 2022. Forget it all, you come to Him, he says, 'Your sins I will remember no more.' That is my God and your God. He will remember them no more. In your heart, in a very silent voice, you can say, 'Lord, I am coming,' He hears you, 'with all my junk and all my garbage. Everything. I know You are the only One who will take it.'

To every other God in this world if you have to offer something it has to be something that is valuable, precious and holy. But to my God offer Him your junk, offer Him your garbage and your sin, He will take it upon Himself and release His goodness and His righteousness onto you. He is the only God who takes garbage from man. Come to Him this evening one last time. (Look at the clock, 35 minutes left) one last time, 'Lord I am coming to You. I am not hiding anything from You Lord. There are unspeakable things.' He says, 'I know. You can speak it to Me. I know it already, but speak it out. Why? It is because I said that if you speak it out the Blood of My Son will cleanse it all out.'

Can you imagine, when I speak His Blood cleanses me? It is always the Blood of His Son. The Blood that was shed for the remission of my sins and your sins. Come near! Elijah speaks for every servant of God – 'Come near!' **and all the people came near to him.** What did he do? **He repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.**

Do you know, children of God, what is the source of all our problems? Our altar is broken down. Those whose altars are not broken down, they can face any storm, any battle, any demon they can face. The first thing God says through His servant is repair the altar, a broken altar. Do you know why they were in trouble? It is because their altar was broken. They had a religion, they had no relationship. Is that your life? Our life?

Every room in the house is full and busy except the prayer closet which is empty and silent. Yet when the Son of Man came, do you know what He said? Foxes have holes, birds have nests but the Son of Man doesn't have a place to rest His head. That is Jesus, but do you know what? His prayer closet, which was the wilderness, was never empty and never silent. Never empty and never silent. Make this decisions, 'Lord, I want to draw near to You. I want to repair my altar.' Let the blessings of 2023 flow from there. Do you know in the Bible, in the Old Covenant, in the book of Genesis the most blessed man is Isaac. Nobody was blessed like Isaac. Born in the Promise Land, lived in the Promise Land, died in the Promise Land, never stepped out of the Promise Land. The way his blessing is described – he prospered and prospered and prospered and never had to fight a battle. Kings came to him and made peace with him. Wherever he dug he found water. Others came and fought and he said, 'Take it' and he dug another well and they took it. Listen to these two words when he digs his final well,

Genesis 26:24-25

²⁴And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake." ²⁵So he built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well.

You see, every time God is blessing Isaac. But did you see what Isaac did? The first thing he does is that he builds an altar. Then he builds his home and then he digs a well. What is our order? The first thing that Isaac does is that he builds an altar. Then he pitches his tent and then he digs a well and it is called Beersheba. Let that be our order, every day when you begin. First go to your altar. Don't take it lightly, don't take it lightly. No one has any clue how close the coming of the Lord is. But those who have their altars won't be worried.

Now let me ask you a hypothetical question, all you pundits in the Bible. In the Bible, in the Old Covenant what was the purpose of the altar? It is to offer sacrifice. What were the sacrifices offered for? For atonement, for sin. What was the sacrifice offered for? It is for sin. Not in the altars of baal; every sacrifice offered on the altar of baal was for blessings, not for atonement. Now, do you know why the Lord's altar has been broken down? It is because nobody wanted to deal with their sin, they only wanted their blessings. It is not written that they had to repair the altar of baal. That is the difference. The difference of an altar; the altar of the Lord was an altar for atonement and they didn't want that altar. If you go to that altar you had to deal with your sin. And here is another god who is saying, 'I'm not bother about your sin. Do what you want, live as you like.'

We will go back to the altar of the Lord, because if our sin is not dealt with it doesn't matter what blessings we have. Remember that rich man? Very rich man, he was so rich, his harvest was plentiful, he was thinking like one of our modern days Adani, 'I will buy this company and I will buy that company. I will merge these companies.' He was saying, 'I will break down my barns, build more barns.' And God speaks to him that night, 'You fool! Tonight your soul is going to be required of. What is going to happen to all this?'

Jesus told a real story about a rich man and Lazarus. It is a real story. Two people dying on the same night. The rich man went boom! Straight down to hell and the poor man was carried (not because he was poor, but because he had faith) into the presence of Abraham. Altars make a lot of difference. Which altar you go to makes a lot of difference. So the predominant sin of God's people in the Bible, old and new, is always idolatry. That is why when the 10 commandments begin the first thing God says is, 'You shall have no other gods before Me. And don't make any images. I am the Almighty God, don't make Me into images.' Of course we have idols – American idol, Indian idol, football idol, movie idol and we worship them. A whole session of worship was over few days back. We worshipped. And one idol died yesterday. Oh how we worship! We worship them. That is why people struggle to worship in Church because we worship idols. Does Messi require anything from you? 'No, nothing! Just sit comfortably, take your subscription, some of the money will come to me. Just sit there, have your potato chips and worship me.' Baal. Mruthy ke samey me thera baal bhi nehi bachega (at the time of death even your hair will not be saved/left). Baal worship. Lot of Baal worshippers here. Wake up early in the morning. People were all grateful that this time the World Cup was in Qatar because the timings were very convenient. If it was early morning even then people would wake up to watch it. People who have never woken up in the morning would wake up and would be worshipping, while the altar of the Lord lies broken.

Let me ask you this question to the believers in GTC, shall I ask you to put your hand up – how many of you can say that for the past 12 months you have woken up every morning consistently and went to the altar to meet your God? How many of you can actually say that, 'Without fail my day began with Him. Without Him I didn't begin any day'? Worship team, can you say that? What did Baal give you? And what did God give you? God gave you His Son. That is why we will go to heaven and that is why we will not fear death. That is why death means going home. That is why we have a living hope. That is why we are not afraid of what is happening around the world, because for us death is just a departure. What did we give in return? I am not talking about those who have night-shifts in IT companies, but whatever it is; whenever your day begins?

Say, 'Lord, I want to start tonight.' For once New Year's Eve and 1st of January, Sunday morning, are falling back to back. Let it be a shift in your life, starting 2023 – 'Lord, I will rise up early in the morning to seek Your face. First thing is You.' Repair your altar. Repair your altar. One day when you are sitting next to God you will thank me for that. Repair your altar. 'Come near,' said Elijah, 'Repair your altar.'

1 Kings 18:33

³³And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood."

Third thing – 2023 please bring order into your lives. God has designed this entire creation in order, the only disorderly set of creatures are us, human beings. Get order back into your life. Know your priorities; put it in the right order. It is not easy to have order in your life if you are a disorderly person, but God will help you. Order can change everything in your life. Order; discipline, bring that into your life. I am telling you even in this secular world, if you do not have order you will not prosper. The reason is this, (in last week's Q 7 A we discussed this), we all have been given only certain amount of time and a certain amount of energy. If you want to be efficient you need to know how to order your time and to be energy efficient and it is order that brings it. And God says the way to be successful now and forever is put God first.

Just because the people have been thirsty for 3 and half years, the country is suffering, now the people have come near, Elijah repaired the altar, he is not going to hurry anything – things are going to be done according to God's order. And God does not make concessions even for those whom He loves. God loved David and David loved God but when he tried to bring the Ark into the city not according to God's order what came is not blessings, but death.

Now some of you might be saying, 'All these things don't matter. I am good with my life.' Let me tell you something, do you know why Israel is in trouble? Do you know why there is drought in Israel? Do you know why? It is so that ultimately they will turn to God. It is because in Israel there was an intercessor who said, 'Lord, don't bless them until they turn back.' And if you are being blessed without following God it is because you do not have an intercessor. Be careful, you do not want the blessings where somebody is not standing in the gap and praying for you to turn back. If there was no intercessor for Israel during that time they would have gone all the way with Baal and Baal would have given them rain,

but there was a man who stood in the gap and said, 'Lord, stop! Stop Lord, stop, because if this continues they will reach a point of no return.' Thank God for intercessors. Thank God for people who stand in the gap. Thank God for people who understand the heart and the mind and the will of God, they just don't want the blessings without the presence of God.

Be careful! Be careful, all blessings are not from God. Many blessings that even God's people enjoy are from the devil, because he will bless you if he can keep you from God. Be careful! That is why I like that prayer request, which child does not want to go to Germany, but what did that child write? 'If it is Your will...' where are you going? Where your parents are there, 'But if it is not Your will I do not want to go to Germany and be with my parents. I would rather be here alone.' That is commitment. Do you know how many Christians have been blessed by the devil? Given them green card, red cards and white cards, gone to US, their families broke up, their children went haywire. Was it from God? But before going they came and gave a testimony that the Lord opened a door for them. What happened to you after that, 5 years, 8 years later? Everything gone! Be very careful, every blessing is not from God. That is why be careful. Our God is a God who protects. And then blesses us from within.

You know lot of things happened that day on Mount Carmel. He dug a trench, a deep trench. He put everything in order and he asked the people to bring water. That is something that they don't have. That is only time you will know if you are really committed to God. What is that you value most in your life? The voice of God will usually ask you to bring that most valuable thing and put it on the altar. God didn't ask Abraham for anything else, He said, 'I want your son. I look at you and that is your idol. I want your son.' Elijah asked the people to bring water. Everybody has been hoarding water for 3 and half years; the most precious item in Israel is water. He says, 'Bring your water.' What did Elijah ask previously from the poor widow in Zarephath? What do you have? 'I have little flour, little oil and a little water. My son and I are going to eat it and we are going to die.' Elijah says, 'Give it to me.'

What is the idol you are clinging onto today? Lot of things were on play that day. He poured water and poured the water three times, until everything was soaked and the trench was full. He was making it very sure that when this happens nobody will doubt now or ever and be sure that this is an act of God and not an act of man. You and I don't have to make things easy for God, because for my God and your God nothing is impossible. Sometimes in the choices we make, we try to make it easier for God and we compromise. God says, 'You don't have to make anything easy for Me.'

1 Kings 18:36-37

³⁶And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. ³⁷Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

Very simple, covenantal prayer, in the Old Covenant they prayed, 'God of our father Abraham, Isaac and Jacob...' in the new covenant we say, 'In the name of Jesus I pray.' Simple when you pray you need to have a covenant, either in the Old Covenant or in the New Covenant. In the New Covenant it is – 'In Jesus' name.' In the Old Covenant – 'O God of our father Abraham' because their covenant was made with Abraham and then Israel. Very simple prayer, nothing complicated. There are prayers we pray congregationally. All these prayers (prayer requests) taken together congregationally. There are prayers which are simply to God, you don't have to make it complicated. It is the simplest prayer that you would ever hear which is producing fire from Heaven for the first time in human history; 'Lord, this is who You are, this is who I am. I have done everything according to Your Word. Now prove Yourself.' That's all.

³⁷Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

Did you see his motive? His only intention of his entire life of prayer and sacrifice and to enter this contest, standing alone, is so that the hearts of the people would turn back to God. This year 2023 promise was very strange, I had to tune in to get it very clearly. The promise was in three words; three words and three parts.

The first part of the promise is this - ***³⁷Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."***

2023 is going to be the year when God is going to turn the hearts back to Himself. You need to realise, we cannot turn our hearts back to God; we simply do not have the capacity. He (God) has to turn. The way He will turn it is that He will turn it with fire. Turning back in simple words means to repent. You have to believe for yourself and for those you have been praying for years and years. This is a year that is coming, because every Sunday, the most repeated prayer is – salvation. Believe because you have a promise. *His divine power has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him.* How do we part-take of it? Through His exceedingly great promises which are Ye and Amen is Christ Jesus. So when we receive a promise like this, God is saying, ‘I heard Sunday after Sunday for the salvation of loved ones. But they are not going to be saved until they turn. And the time has come, I will turn them.’ God will turn. Maybe it is a parent, maybe it is a sibling, maybe it is a child, we do not know who it is. Is there anybody here whose entire household is saved? Put up your hand. Nobody. So it means that everybody has people who are not saved. And you have been praying, you have tried all kinds of methods, nothing is happening, God says, ‘The year has come.’ And by your personal testimony instead of drawing them close to God you have driven them further away. And for the season of rebellion you have been the reason.

It is coming, believe. You have to believe. Do you know in the past few years how many people in our household have turned to God and they are listening online. Do you know how large my wife’s family is? All Catholics, most of them listen online. And the other half will listen in 2023. None will be lost. You have to believe. In 2023 the first part of the promise is ‘Turn’. ***You have turned their hearts back to You again.*** People will repent and they will turn their hearts back to God because God will cause them to do so. How will He do it?

1 Kings 18:38-39

³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹ Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!”

That is how it will happen. It will be an act of God. When the fire of God falls upon a person he doesn’t need any kind of convincing. He knows. Let Him do it. You continue to stand there and pray simple prayers. Say, ‘Lord I heard, I prayed, I believe that in 2023 my father will come, my mother will come, my husband will come, my wife will come, my daughter will come, my brothers, my sisters will come.’ You believe and you pray, let God’s fire fall. The Word of God says that when the fire fell nothing was left. Everything was burnt – the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the dust everything was gone. There was nothing left. And the people fell on their face. No more doubts. Nobody anymore is faltering between two opinions. Everybody has only one opinion now – You are God! Believe! Nobody has any more doubts that He is God. What happened? The fire fell.

On the day of Pentecost, all the disciplines who faltered and wavered and went fishing after the resurrection I am talking about, those who betrayed Him before the resurrection and went fishing after the resurrection. Jesus appeared to 500 of them but only 120 were present in the upper room and when the fire fell they all stood there as one; nobody was in two minds or two opinions now. They stood there as one and one man stepped in front and he spoke and 3000 were added to that group who were of one opinion again. What made the difference? Fire made the difference. In verse 40,

1 Kings 18:40

⁴⁰ And Elijah said to them, “Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!” So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

We don’t kill people, that is in the Old Covenant. But the picture is this – once the fire falls you don’t have to worry about telling people to deal with their sin, it will be dealt by themselves with a firm hand. They will. There is no struggle anymore because they have encountered the living God and you are very much aware of what is clean and what is unclean. They will no longer struggle with idols. They will have only one hero and that is Jesus and everybody else is zero. And they are not going to waste time over them, because we will realize that the greatest gift God has given me each day is time. You may be a simple kid sitting here, you’ve got 24 hours today and PM Modi has got 24 hours today. There is no difference between the two. But the question is – what did you do with your time?

Luke 3:16

¹⁶ ***John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.***

Many have been baptized in the Holy Spirit to the overflow, but what about fire? Fire burns idols. Fire destroys everything that stands between God and you. Fire. To the same prophet in Malachi He said that He will suddenly come into His temple and He will sit there like the launderer's soap and the refiner's fire. Ask and you shall receive. Do not be afraid. Ask! Once the fire has fallen and all are committed, the visible presence of sin has been destroyed, the next thing is verse 41,

1 Kings 18:41

⁴¹ ***Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain."***

Blessings are on the way, more than you can think or imagine.

1 Kings 18:44

⁴⁴ ***Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.'***

What brought the rain? Something happened there on the mountain; fire fell and sin was dealt with, God opened up heavens because He knows that now when He opens up heavens the blessings won't destroy them, for when God prospers a man He adds no sorrow to it. Repentance, do you know what it leads to? It leads to the second promise.

The second part of the promise for this year is

Psalms 85:6

⁶ ***Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?***

Note that again – *Will You not revive us?*

Fire is from God, the rain is from God, the repentance is of God and the revival is also of God. Keep that in mind. Repent! Revive! Once they have turned to God, revival is breaking forth and it is in the midst of the revival God will show Elijah who will take his mantle – a man who is walking and smelling the revival. The rain has soaked the ground, everything is turning green again. Revival has started.

⁶ ***Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?*** The second thing we need to pray, believe and ask for is revival again. Revive Lord, individual lives, homes, cities, nations.

A disgruntle, angry prophet, under great pressure was sent to a city called Nineveh. When repentance took place revival came into Nineveh, the whole city turned. Pastors from other churches and nations, believe that your country and your cities will turn to God. Times are very difficult and when it is very difficult that is when God intervenes; when people are willing to listen and willing to hear. Blessed are those who hear in times of good, if not don't worry times will be bad soon, for you. Either way God will cause you to listen (if you have been in this church and any church that heard the Word of God). All kinds of people are in the body of Christ. Different people need different kinds of revival.

Genesis 45:27

²⁷ ***But when they told him all the words which Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived.***

This is a man who thought his son was dead. Almost 22 years have passed by, he has no idea that his son is alive. Not only is his son alive but he has prospered and reached the top of his career and now he has sent carts full of things to bring his father and his father's household to Egypt. When Jacob heard that Joseph was alive and when he saw all the things that he had sent his spirit revived.

There are lots of people who have lost hope and have given up, they have grieved and as far as they see their future is dead. But this year 2023 you will hear news which you will never believe would happen and your spirit will be revived. You thought that was dead, you thought your marriage was over, you thought that your career was over, you thought that it is all over, it is done. Now it is just another mundane life going around in circles like the children of Israel wandering till you die. God says, 'No!' in 2023 you will see what God will do. You will hear about the impossible. You will hear about that thing which you thought was dead is not dead, it was thriving, it was doing very well. The only thing is that you did not know. You will hear how good God is, how wonderful God is, how awesome He is.

Yes, you sang with your lips, grateful, grateful, grateful, but when you get the news in 2023 you will sing with all your heart, 'Grateful! Grateful! Grateful! My God is able to do.'

Repent! Revive!

This is Samson after he had killed a thousand philistines with a jaw bone of a donkey.

Judges 15:18-19

¹⁸ Then he became very thirsty; so he cried out to the LORD and said, "You have given this great deliverance by the hand of Your servant; and now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?" ¹⁹ So God split the hollow place that is in Lehi, and water came out, and he drank; and his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore he called its name En Hakkore, which is in Lehi to this day.

There are a lot of people even now listening online, they have been waging this spiritual battle for the people of God all alone. I know two sisters even in this country, they come out of their prayer closet only once a week. They are there, they have rooms with attached bathrooms and they eat only one meal a day, they never come out. All they do is pray, fast and pray. They are the Anna of the 21st century. Sometimes they are fighting and they are fighting and they are fighting for others, they are not fighting for themselves. They are fighting for others and they are on the verge of giving up. God says to them, 'My spiritual warriors, you will be revived this year. You will be revived this year.'

Elijah was such a man. He stood alone, all alone for 3 and half years fighting this battle. Nobody, not even one person, he was all alone. Finally when he thought that revival had begun, the person Jezebel said, 'See! If not tomorrow you are not like my prophets whom you killed.' And he ran, all he wanted to do was to die. Do you know what God did for His servant? He sent an angel and revived him, took him on a forty day journey, changed him around, gave him a new commission and sent him. That is one man who wanted die but he still hasn't died. Samson thought he was going to die. These are warriors, these are not normal people.

There are warriors in our churches, those who fight day and night, but they are weary, they have grown tired because they feel like Elijah, 'Lord, I am the only one.' God says, 'Elijah, you are not the only one, there are seven thousand others. You don't know them but you are not the only one.' And God is telling them, and sister Saphia, if you are hearing/reading this now, God is hearing you. Don't give up. Don't give up on your husband, don't give up on your children, keep fighting. Mrs C and Mrs C's mother, Hannah, Sarai, don't give up. You are warriors, you have been beaten, your bones have been broken, you have been raped by intruders multiple times, but you will still not stop fighting. 2023 God will revive you.

There are people out there you have no clue what their crowns will be in eternity. Literally they have offered their bodies as a living sacrifice and they will never quit their prayer closet. There are many out there, their names I do not have the liberty to speak. To them God is saying that there will be revival. He will revive your spirit. Some of them are young, younger than many of you sitting here. Bodies have been brutalized this year in 2022. They don't quit, they never stop praying, they never give up. In 2023 God says that He will split the hollow and He will quench your thirst. He will revive your spirit because He has seen you.

Many of the messages I preach from here are not for you. Many of the messages I preach on Monday, Wednesday and Friday are not for you, it is for them. To them I say, 'Don't give up! Because if you give up many of the people in my church will not make it. Don't give up.'

This evening a young kid wrote to me, a kid you will never see – ‘Daddy PJ I want to thank you before the year ends. I thank God for using you to save me from the fires of hell.’ You will never see them because they cannot be seen, because of who they are and whose they are. But once they come through do you know what they do? All they do is pray and they pray and they pray. I am telling you, I’m telling all of them, ‘In 2023 God will pour out His Spirit upon you and He will revive you.’ They are the kind of people in *Hebrews 11* after verse 35 talks about, where the Word of God says that this world was not worthy of them. God is telling you, the beginning of this year, to you, all of you who are standing in the gap, never quit.

There is in Lisbon, in Portugal a 109 year old lady, who got saved at 98 or 99 through a message that was preached from here, all she has gone through is persecution after she got saved; every bone in her body has been broken, but all she does is lies down there and prays in the Spirit non-stop 24 hours a day. There are saints, 21st century saints. Refuse to give up, they won’t quit. They want to go but for our sake they stay and to them God is saying, ‘I will quench your thirst, I will revive your spirit.’

That is why I said this year’s promise was very strange, I struggled with it to fall into place, ‘Lord, You just gave me three words – Repent! Revive! And the third one.

1 Kings 17:22

22 Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived.

There are many in our midst, in our homes and in our offices, whom we love, they are dead in the spirit. They are not interested about God, they don’t want to hear about God, the only way you can fellowship with them is if you don’t speak to them about God. They are dead. But God is saying, “2023 I will hear the cry of the father, or a mother, or a spouse, or a loved one and I will revive them and I will hear your cry.” The Lord heard the cry of Elijah and the boy’s spirit came back and he was revived. They are dead men walking. They are alive in the world but they are dead.

This is what the father said in *Luke 15:24*,

Luke 15:24

24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

God says, ‘Don’t give up. Turn with all your heart. Turn, destroy every idol that is in your life.’ Revival is coming to the churches, revival is coming to homes, and revival is coming to household. It is coming! God say, ‘I will do it.’ It will be the work of the Lord. Children you never hoped will return.

Jesus loved Martha, Mary and Lazarus. But you never find Lazarus with Jesus until he is dead and he is revived, then you see him with Jesus. You will see in 2023 many who are dead in the spirit, once they are revived they will be with Jesus. They will not leave Him. They will put you to shame for your complacent, compromising faith. God will revive, you have to believe, because you know why? It is not only the clock on the wall that is ticking away; there is another clock in Heaven that is ticking away. If you have doubts, read what was spoken through the prophet, by the Holy Spirit in *1 Peter*,

1 Peter 4:7

7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

The prayer of a righteous man, a righteous woman, a righteous child availeth much. Elijah prayed and the child revived and he gave the child back to the mother. God is going to pour out the spirit of Elijah on this earth one more time, for what? To turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children and the hearts of the children back to the fathers before the terrible and dreadful day of the Lord. Our job is to believe. And say, ‘Lord, You do it, I believe.’ Martha and Mary said, ‘Lord, he has been dead four days (because Jesus asked them to remove the stone). His body must be stinking,’ Jesus said, “*If you believe you will see the glory of God.*” Do you believe for the one you have lost hope? That is why every miracle of Jesus Christ is a sign. 12 years with the issue of blood, 18 years bent down. 38 years crippled. Jesus asked, ‘Do you want to be made whole’ time is not a factor for the living God. It doesn’t matter how long you have been dead spiritually, how long you have been bound by sin and satan. God says, ‘The Son of Man has come to destroy the works of the devil.’

Do you believe? After death there is no coming back, it is judgment; either you go to Hell or you go to Heaven. Every chance is now and that is why we need revival, we need the dead to be revived. We need them to know Jesus. That is why around the world there are people who are shutting themselves in their closets because they know, 'Lord! The end of all things is near. Therefore Lord I am going to be serious. I have no more ambitions in life. All I need is one meal a day and a roof over my head. I don't need anything else, even if I don't have one meal a day it is fine. I am fine because there are bigger things at stake here; the souls of men and women.'

Elisha is dead and his body has been buried. Now another man has died, his friends have taken his body to bury him and at that time a hoard of enemies, the amalekites come, so this is what they do.

2 Kings 13:21

²¹ So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of raiders; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.

This is what the Lord told me, there are many who are dead, dead spiritually, but in the year 2023, He said, there will be many brought to life without the intervention of man. They will by God's accident walk into a meeting where the anointing will be so strong that they will just get saved. It will be a supernatural work of God and God alone and no man will be able to take credit. I have met people like that. I ask them, 'Can you share your testimony, how did you get saved?' they said, 'I went for a meeting and worship was going on. I have no idea what happened; the presence and the power of God was so powerful I believed that Jesus is the Son of God.'

That is why when Jesus speaks for the first time He says, '*The Spirit of the Lord has anointed Me...*' you have to believe in God, you have to believe in His goodness. Elisha was dead, we do not know for how long he was dead, but why is the anointing tarrying over his dead bone? It is because God knows that a dead man will come one day who has to be revived. The anointing of God, not the anointing of Elisha, we don't have anointing of our own. The anointing we have is of God. Why is the anointing of God tarrying over a dead man's bones? It is because God, in His sovereignty, has seen a man who will die and he will be thrown in here. He has to be revived because his name is written in the Lamb's book of Life. There is nobody to intercede for him, there is nobody who cries for him, God says, 'Yet he will be saved.' Do you believe?

That is why every time when we pray on Sunday mornings with the worship team, the prayer is always, 'Lord, let Your anointing flow. Let Your anointing flow, because it breaks the yoke.' The Lord's anointing can even break the yoke of death and cause a man to come back. It is the anointing of the Spirit of God. Believe! *All things are possible to him/her who believes.* When it comes to salvation do not set limits. For everything else like material and temporal, put limits it does not matter. But for salvation, no do not put limits. No Lord! For it is not the will of God that any man should perish but that everyone should come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Stand on it! Stand on it and say, 'Lord I am standing on Your will and Your desire for man. Lord, let 2023 be a year of harvest. Let there be a revival, let the dead come back to life.'

Personally, each one of us, as we turn, as God revives us. How do we stay revived? Have you noticed that is church history revivals do not last too long? But when the revival is there it is very powerful and after that it fades away. But some people they are always revived. They never change, their fire never goes down. What was the secret?

Isaiah 57:15

¹⁵ For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Do you know why Jesus said, 'Learn of Me, I am meek and lowly,?' It is because if we learn to be meek, humble and contrite then God will stay within you and keep you revived. Your fire will never go down, you passion for God will never go down, you will walk in a state of revival. This is God's way. Who is the one who revives? It is God. How can God come and stay in your heart and you not be revived? But what is the kind of heart that He is looking for? A humble and a contrite heart. That is why God stayed with David, because he knew that a contrite and a broken heart God will not

despise. His coming is getting closer and closer. Do you know that? It is getting closer and closer. Do not be caught like that deer in the headlights.

Do not be caught like the deer in the headlights, because if the car does not have good breaks the deer will die. Do you know what happened to the deer caught in the headlights? It was in the middle of the road and the car was coming, it was between two opinions – whether to turn to the left or to the right and by the time it made up its mind it died. That is why Elijah is saying, ‘How long will you falter between two opinions? *‘Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision, the day of the Lord is near,’* the prophet said. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision, the day of the Lord is near. And when the day of the Lord is near do you know what we have to do?

Turn! And ask God, ‘Revive me Lord. You turn me Lord. I am incapable.’ You need to understand the heart of God and the truth about God. You know one of the things that God showed me from the Covenant in *Genesis 50* He made with Abraham is this – when it was time for the covenant to be made He put Abraham to sleep. He did not allow Abraham to walk between the pieces of the animals. God made a covenant with Abraham and Himself by Himself, so that when Abraham failed He would take the punishment upon Himself. And He said, “You know what? Tell your people, I know they are weak, I have made a covenant with Myself that what they are not able to do I will do for them. If they are not able to turn, tell them to ask Me for help and I will turn them. If they are not able to revive themselves, tell them to ask Me and I will revive them.” Confess your inability to God, because that is our truth – we cannot do anything that He asks us to do. That is why He told His disciples, ‘Do not leave Jerusalem until you have received My power. When My Spirit comes you will have the power.’

So the day of the Lord is near. He cannot take us until He has revived us.

Hosea 6:2

²After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight.

Before we can be raised He has to revive us. It is a revived church that will be raised. We are at the very end of the second day. The third day is knocking at the door, and we are not talking about 2023 New Year. We are talking about the third day of the Lord. Before He raises us up He has to revive us. Stand on the promises of God. Believe in the promises of God and say, ‘Lord, You will revive me. I heard, I believe. You are God and Jesus is Your Son. I believe. I now turn, Lord, help me to turn. Revive me O Lord and I am believing for great things in 2023 in my life, in my home, in my household.

Let’s have the worship team and we will go into our communion service and then continue with the Word.