

Matthew 17:10-13

¹⁰ And His disciples asked Him, “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” ¹¹ And He answered and said, “Elijah is coming and will restore all things; ¹² but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.” ¹³ Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.

Malachi 4:5-6

⁵ “Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. ⁶ He will restore the hearts of the fathers to *their* children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.”

Luke 1:17

¹⁷ It is he who will go *as a forerunner* before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

John would come in the spirit and power of Elijah, as a reflection of that great prophet, making the way for the Messiah. Same Spirit

They were both men of a gruff appearance, which shows they had little room in their hearts for luxury or vanity.

Mark 1:6

⁶ John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey.

2 Kings 1:7-9

⁷ He said to them, “What kind of man was he who came up to meet you and spoke these words to you?” ⁸ They answered him, “*He was* a hairy man with a leather girdle bound about his loins.” And he said, “It is Elijah the Tishbite.”

John saw things as clearly right or wrong, and boldly provoked his adversaries, as Elijah did.

Matthew 3:7-10

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; ⁹ and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

1 Kings 18:27

²⁷ It came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, “Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened.”

Same Power

While John performed no miracles and Elijah performed many, both men were mighty in the Word of God.

1 Kings 18:45-46 Raising the widow’s son, prophets of Baal, prayer and heavens were closed

⁴⁵ In a little while the sky grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy shower. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. ⁴⁶ Then the hand of the Lord was on Elijah, and he girded up his loins and outran Ahab to Jezreel.

John was the forerunner for Christ, but Elijah had done some literal forerunning in the power of the Spirit!

Elijah likely thought he had come into a new season of spiritual prosperity and power that had only just begun.

The cries of the people from the top of Mt. Carmel were still ringing in his ears: "Eli-jah! Eli-jah!"

He had a little more 'dying' to do.

1 Kings 19:1-4

¹ Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."³ And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. ⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers."

Just as John came in the spirit and power of Elijah, Elijah also shared the "less-is-more" ministry calling of John.

John 3:29-30

²⁹ He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease.

Matthew 11:2-6,11

² Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent *word* by his disciples ³ and said to Him, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?" ⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ *the* blind receive sight and *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed and *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised up, and *the* poor have the gospel preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."

Jesus challenges us in painful ways to go into deeper places with Him, but His heart toward us never changes.

¹¹ Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen *anyone* greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Jesus said there was no one greater than John, and yet John was in prison and stumbling in faith!

Couch potato faith never has a chance to stumble- it never loses, but it also never wins- because it takes no risk!

Greatness before God, and the release of His power, come as we take the hard road of total obedience; our cross.

Hebrews 6:19-20

¹⁹ This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, ²⁰ where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Jesus is our forerunner! When we go His way, the way of the cross, we come after Him in His spirit and His power.

Acts 1:8

⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

If you have been experiencing the life of less, God is preparing you for an increase of Himself- His Spirit and Power!