



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

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

1 Kings 19:9-10

Elijah: Where is everybody?

The trends of Christianity in our country are alarming to say the least. From 2007 to 2014 the amount of people who describe themselves as Christians dropped by almost 8%. The younger the group of people, the worse the statistics. For example, 36% of millennials are now considered ‘nones’, meaning they have no religious affiliation.

Sadly, we see these same trends in our own churches. Confirmation classes of 20 – 25 students are turning into teen groups of 4 – 5 students. Many faithful young people are heading off to college to never return to the church. Let’s not even talk about the mocking and ridicule Christians receive from those in our society with the most influence and largest platforms.

What about you? What is your trend? Are you a committed teen who is looking around for your brothers and sisters in Christ and wondering, “Where is everybody?” Are you part of the 36% that considers themselves a ‘none’? Are you struggling in your faith right now due to all of these outside pressures and are tempted to just give up?

Our hero this week, Elijah, once felt that way. He was coming off one of the biggest smackdowns in human history. He had challenged hundreds of false prophets to a test to see who the true God was. Long story short: Our God won and Elijah lived; their god lost and they died. Elijah, though, didn’t have much time to celebrate because the evil Queen Jezebel vowed to murder him within the day.

Elijah fled and found himself alone under a broom tree asking God to take his life. Instead, God nourished him and Elijah made a 40 day trip to Mt. Horeb. It was while spending the night in a cave, that God came to Elijah—not in the wind, or an earthquake, or in fire, but in a gentle whisper. Through his grace and calmness God reminded Elijah that he was not alone.

Wherever you find yourself in your Christian walk, know this: You also are not alone! You can be sure of this because your Lord and Savior was willing to die alone on a cross, forsaken by his own Father in heaven, for you.

When you are tempted to just give up or to feel that you are all alone turn to God’s beautiful promises in Deuteronomy 31:6, Romans 8:31-38, Matthew 28:20, and Isaiah 41:10. Like Elijah, be spiritually strengthened and uplifted as the Lord speaks to you through the gentle whisper of the Gospel!

Dear Heavenly Father, you promise that we are more than conquerors through your Son who loved us. We are convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.