

## **Failure to Launch!** ***Part 5: When Fear Seizes and Freezes!***

**Reasons we fail to launch... *Comfort zones we don't want to leave!*** Like our movie "family" (funny) Early Church family **A1.8 v. 8.1** (not funny) ***Stuff in the way!*** Like Israel: giants, walls **Num13.28-33** Like things we see that cause us to doubt: wind, waves **Mt 14.30** demon effects **Mt17 *Un-reasonable fear!***

**God expects us to respond to Him and to life in faith! And when we don't or can't it's a failure to launch! And there's nothing funny about it!**

So far...

***We have the proclamation of faith that prevents FTL!***

***We have the right circle of friends to get the job done if we FTL!***

***We have prayer with fasting to remove FTL causing doubt!***

***We have Jesus as the light at the end of every tunnel/Rock in every storm...***

**But what do we do when we are "seized" by fear?**

**1Kings 19.1-4** And Ahab told Jezebel all the things Elijah had done, how he killed all the prophets of Baal with his sword... and Jezebel sent this message to Elijah... by this time tomorrow you will as dead as the men you killed, 'so help me gods...' and when Elijah heard that, he fled for his life into the wilderness and said to the Lord, "go ahead and kill me now, I have had enough..." FTL!

**Elijah...** Has come on the scene from out of nowhere... *taking directed steps!* *Now speak this word* to Israel: "there will be no dew or rain until I say!" **v1** "Now go to the Cherith Brook I've commanded the ravens to feed you until I tell you *the next step...*" **v2-7** ("and the ravens fed him morning and evening and he drank from the brook until it dried up!") "Now go to Zarephath, I have commanded a gal there to feed you. And he went and found her there... a woman gathering sticks to prepare a last meal for her son and herself before they died of starvation. He said to her, make me a cake! For the Lord has said your barrel of meal will not empty nor your bottle of oil run out until the day the famine is broken by the Lord. She did... God did... *and the three of them ate those cakes for many days!*" 17.8-16 The woman's son gets sick and dies and Elijah puts the boy on his bed, prays, stretches himself over the boy three times *and he comes back to life!* **v17-24** Now "go show yourself to Ahab..." **18.1** Ahab is belligerent, "Are you the one who has troubled Israel?" Elijah: "I am not the one but you are!" Now call all Israel, the prophets of Baal and of the groves together **v19** Before all the people Elijah calls on God who sends fire from heaven... he personally kills the 850 false prophets... He gets the word from God that rain is on the way... he prays seven times... and outruns Ahab's chariots home...

**The deluge comes... Ahab gets home... tells Jezebel what Elijah did...she sends her word and Elijah breaks!**

**Elijah's (directed) steps...** speak for Me... rest in My provision... taste the supernatural... go confront Ahab... challenge Israel to choose... step back... kill the false prophets... pray for rain and then run... and then?

**Elijah... Adds his own step: he runs in fear! 19.3** Making statements of his condition (fear) without following up with the word! God steps back in; angels prepping his journey to Horeb... **v5-8** And he travels forty days on the power of that last meal! (*supernt'l sustenance!*) Gets him a room, and the word of the Lord calls to him there! "**Step out here!**" "What are you doing here Elijah?" **v9** 'because of you... they want to kill me!' **10**

**1Kings 19.11-13** The Lord said, "Go and stand before Me!" And the Lord passed by and a strong and mighty wind tore into the mountain and broke off chunks of rock but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake but the Lord was not affected by the quake and after the quake a fire but the Lord wasn't affected... and then His voice... *soft and calm...* "Why are you here?" And Elijah repeated himself, I have been very jealous for You and Israel is against You and I am the only one you have left and they want to kill me... And the Lord

replied, "Go back down... anoint Hazael to be king of Syria, Jehu to be king of Israel, and appoint Elisha – your successor – you're done. And by the way, there are seven thousand in Israel who have not compromised..."

**What began as a whirlwind of power ended in a wimper... For the *fear* of one old woman!**

**Fear will not only cause FTL... it can get you fired – *taken out of the line of fire!***

**Asides...** Someone said, "God doesn't fire!" ***God fires...*** He will remove you from a situation where you are at risk due to unbelief... ***But He never discards/rejects!*** Elijah is with Moses on the mount of Transfiguration! ***Good news is we can be re-fired up any time and be back on track!***

**What to do w/fear...?**

***Speak to it like you would speak to a mountain standing in your way!*** Word declarations are your bedrock! ***We engage our friends for counsel, encouragement and prayer!*** Safety in a multitude of counselors... Someone has proficiency to speak up! ***If fear is holding on/doubt problem... Prayer with fasting/looking to Jesus the author and finisher of our FAITH!***

Prayer with fasting causes us to be spiritually sensitized... "When we are weak, then we are strong!"  
"Draw near to God, who is love, and He will draw near to you!" "Love casts out fear/has no torment!"  
"When I could only go to the Lord to deal with issues, I finally heard the answer. Plus, He clearly showed me how much He loves me and perfect love cast out my fear!"

**Isaiah 54.14ff** In righteousness you will be grounded; you will be far from oppression because you will not fear, and from terror for it will not come into you. They will surely gather together against you, but not by Me, and whatsoever comes up against you will fail for your sake... for no weapon formed against you will prosper, this is your inheritance says the Lord!

**Declaration...** For this purpose was the Son of God manifest, to destroy the works of the evil one... Knowing the truth makes me free... if the Son has made me free then I am certainly free... So I will stand firm in the liberty in which Christ has made me free... for I have not been given a spirit of bondage to fear anymore, but a spirit of power, love and soundness of mind!