

# He Whispers because He Is Close

## Happy Wednesday!

Imagine you're a pastor who tells others about God, but because of your message, people want to kill you. What would you do?

All throughout history, this very thing happens, and today's verses tell us what happened next.

Elijah, an Old Testament prophet had actually just had hundreds of false prophets killed. A prophet was person who told others what God was saying, because there was no Bible... yet. False prophets helped others turn away from seeking God. These false prophets believed in a god they called Baal. Elijah had a competition, him and God against hundreds of false prophets and Baal. Elijah's God (the same God we serve today) won, easy peasy. But, he made someone named Jezebel pretty irked in the process, so she swore she would kill him within 24 hours.

So Elijah did what any brave prophet who had just killed hundreds of liars would have done: he ran scared until he found a cave to hide in, and he took a nap. Which is probably what I would have done.

But, while Elijah thought he was alone with his fears, his fear of failure, his storm of worry, and his trembling of counting how many more hours of life he had left, God showed up to talk to him.

“The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.” 1 Kings 19:11-12 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/1ki.19.11-12.NIV> [bible.com]

First of all, if I'm in a cave and the wind is blowing so hard that the rocks tear apart, I wouldn't be calm and I wouldn't stay put. But even if I did stay put, second of all, I wouldn't feel comfortable waiting around for the earthquake! But even if I did wait, I wouldn't have been relaxed watching a fire blaze! But - and don't miss this - if I waited through the chaos of the storms, I would have been waiting on God.

God promised Elijah He was coming. And God didn't show up in the loud wind. God didn't show up in the thundering earthquake. God didn't show up in the heat of the fire. God doesn't need to get our attention by being the loudest, flashiest, hottest thing we experience - no. He whispers because He's close. He's close to you before, during, and after the chaos of your life. He's close to you in the unsteady ground you put yourself on when you trust the wrong thing. He's close to you when you're in the heat of battle and about to get burned.

But he's also not going to shout to get your attention.

He's going to whisper.

When my youngest child is upset or scared, she gets *loud*, and she gets it from me. And when I'm trying to calm her down, I whisper to her, because she can't hear me whisper when she's loud, so she has to get quiet. She has to stop thinking doom-and-gloom to hear what I'm speaking. She has to focus on my words, my voice, my assurance.

So what does God say to Elijah, as he's hiding with only hours left to live?

“When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?””

1 Kings 19:13 NIV

God said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

God rallies Elijah's strength, gives him the plan, and assured him he isn't going to die by Jezebel's anger, but even more of her false prophets will die. God reveals the plans. But Elijah lets God get close.

Do you let God get close enough to speak to you?

Do you get quiet enough to listen?

Do you give God enough time to get through the wind of busyness, the earthquake of doubt, and the fire of distractions?

“I call on the Lord in my distress, and he answers me.” Psalms 120:1 NIV

#### Prayer:

Father I praise You that You do not change - centuries later, and You're still the same God who spoke to Your children, and You still talk to Your children now. You're the same God who fights our battles but gives us Your victory. Help us quiet our hearts and minds to hear your whisper. Give us boldness to obey you. In Jesus' Name I pray - amen.

#### Worship:

“Close” by Tauren Wells <https://youtu.be/fbDdqAgsqPA> [youtu.be]

“My Light” by Colton Dixon [https://youtu.be/\\_cMsibmr2iw](https://youtu.be/_cMsibmr2iw) [youtu.be]

“God I Look To You” by Jenn Johnson <https://youtu.be/dEubLmNPxwg> [youtu.be]

“So Close” by Brandon Lake and Amanda Cook

Brittany Laing