



*SONrise*

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**EMMAUS**

**NEWSLETTER**

**... Strengthening the Local Church**

*From Your Community Lay Director:*

Have you ever been a "wonder junkie"? I had to ponder this question in a recent Bible study I was doing. We were studying Elijah and how he had grown accustomed to seeing God in the midst of magnificence. He had just confronted evil King Ahab and declared a drought, which God proceeded to make happen. When the drought was over, he again confronted Ahab in an altar building contest on Mt. Carmel. You remember the story (First Kings 18). After the Baal worshipers could not "wake" their gods to bring fire to their altar, Elijah prepared the Lord's altar, and then poured water all over it and the sacrifice, not once but three times. Elijah prayed to God and verse 38 tells us what happened: *"Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench."*

Elijah was having one of those joyous, "mountain top" experiences. He was growing accustomed to seeing God in the midst of magnificence. Kind of like the joy and wonder we experience during an Emmaus walk. Elijah was so used to seeing God in these miraculous circumstances that he had trouble maintaining that joy when he ended up back in the valley. Chapter 19 tells us about his flight in fear and his pity party in the desert. Isn't this often what happens to us? Don't we often lose our joy after experiencing a spiritual "high," after God miraculously meets a need, or after we've just experienced a revival or a retreat or a Walk? Satan attacks and we are ripe for a fall.

So there was Elijah, deep in the pits when God in mercy told Elijah to *"Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by"* (verse 11). Elijah then looked for God in the wind, the earthquake, and the fire. But he did not find Him in these spectacular things. God came in a gentle whisper. Aren't those really our most intimate times with God - when we are listening to those gentle whispers in our hearts? Praise God for the mountaintop experiences He brings into our lives, but let's pray for and seek His sweet whispers when we are all alone.

**DeColores!**

*Marty Sutherland*