



## CELL GUIDE

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**TOPIC** The God Who Answers By Fire

**SPEAKER** Elder Edric Sng

**THEME** Spiritual Warfare

**DATE** 25 & 26 Aug 2018

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## The God Who Answers By Fire

In the first installation of this 2-part message on Spiritual Warfare, Elder Edric shared on the importance of knowing our enemy and how to fight the enemy. And this was reflected in the story of the evil Jezebel and the prophet Obadiah, reminding us to know the schemes of our enemy and arm ourselves with the right spiritual weapons to overcome these schemes.

Following closely with the previous sermon, the second sermon focuses on God being the centrepiece in our spiritual warfare, how God is a good God who wants to bless, who wants to save, who wants to give life and life abundantly. How God is for us, how He works all things for the good of those who love Him, and therefore, how we must respond in a spiritual battle.

## Spiritual Warfare

Through the story of King Ahab's evildoings and the prophet Elijah's responses, Elder Edric shares with us 3 things we must do to stand up against the evil one in spiritual warfare.

### 1. Take Up Arms

Instead of running away when facing evil, Elijah stood up against King Ahab, and that is what we must do – take up arms, and stand against evil. We must be clear of three principles to effectively take up arms. Firstly, to know who our enemy really is. Our enemy is the accuser and he accuses us to demoralise and discourage us, causing us to doubt our identity in Christ (you call yourself a Christian? How can you be a Christian if you... etc.)

Secondly, we must be clear where the battlefield is. In the past, the battle was on Mount Carmel but today it is in our heart, soul and mind. And we can win this battle only with obedience, submission and surrender.

Thirdly, we need to be sure of what we are fighting over. In the battle at Mount Carmel, Elijah called for an audience to the battle, to witness God's power. In the modern context, this audience is the people around us, our colleagues or our children, and they are watching us. And we are fighting for the souls around us through our godly behaviours and responses.

## 2. Take Authority

God has given us the authority to overcome the evil one. *Luke 10:19* tells us that we have authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall hurt us. *2 Corinthians 10:4* reminds us that our weapons are not of the flesh, but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

By taking up this God-given authority, we remove the authority of the evil one. That is the divine power we have in the name of Jesus!

## 3. Take A Look At Your Altar

An altar in the past is a place of sacrifice unto God, where it is common practice for a sacrifice to be made to God for forgiveness or thanksgiving. But today, *Romans 12:1* calls us to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice to God.

And just as Elijah used 12 stones to build the altar. Just as 12 is the number of fullness and completeness, we are called to offer our whole selves as a living sacrifice. All of ourselves. All of our life. Not just parts of it. Our attention, in quiet time and prayer. Our service, as we serve others in the body of Christ. Our offences, as we learn to forgive those who offended us. Our bad habits, as we lift up our struggles so that in our weakness He is glorified. Our mind, trading our own opinions for the mind of Christ. Our gratitude. Our career. Our kids. Our marriage. Our will in all things. Preferring not my will but yours oh Lord.

And whatever the state of our altar is today, God is willing to help us repair it, stone by stone, so that we will be able to build an altar to God. An altar of thanksgiving, praise and worship. An altar of submission and surrender. And on that altar, God burns away our sacrifice, our old man, our fleshly selves, and leaves behind a new creation. And then, God will do amazing things through us, as we submit and surrender to His will.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, spiritual warfare against the evil one is not easy but God is with us. As we take up arms, take authority, and rebuild our altars to God. God sees, and God answers. And when God answers, more and more will come to know Him. And as they come to know Him, then He will bless, then He will save, then He will give life and life abundant.

Our God has saved us not just for our sakes alone, but so that others may also be saved through us. God blesses us to do good works for Him and His compassion for us has become our commission for His kingdom. So let us go out and show the world that the Lord is God!

# QUESTIONS

1. What are the 3 things we must do when we realise that we are in a spiritual battle? Which of these do you find most meaningful to you and why?

2. Share about a time where you took up arms against the evil one, or an area where you have been exercising authority over. How did that impact you and the unbelievers around you?

3. What is our altar looking like? What are some areas of your lives which you need to sacrifice at the altar?