

What do we need to experience God in our daily lives?

Both Elijah and Peter definitely encountered God. There were some common steps for them to experience God.

Elijah met 450 prophets of Baal in a contest of strength on Mount Carmel to determine which deity is the true God of Israel. Sacrifices were placed on an altar to Baal and one to Yahweh. The pagan prophets' ecstatic appeals to Baal to kindle the wood on his altar were unsuccessful, but Elijah's prayers to Yahweh were answered by a fire on his altar. This outcome was taken as decisive by the Israelites, who slayed the priests and prophets of Baal under Elijah's direction. Peter witnessed and served others when Jesus fed five thousand people with five loaves and two fish. Even though both Elijah and Peter had great experiences, neither of them experienced God yet.

When Jezebel (the wife of King Ahab) heard what Elijah had done at Mount Carmel, she threatened to kill him. Elijah ran away and hid in the wilderness. He went from a man faithfully and confidently praying for God's glory to be displayed at Mount Carmel to a man begging the Lord to take away his life. Peter began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened and began to sink. Peter went from a man of courage to a man filled with fear. Both Elijah and Peter were great but became desperate.

At this moment Elijah heard the voice of God. God was not in the wind, earthquake, or fire. The voice of God was a tiny whispering sound. Peter also saw the hand of Jesus. He held on tight the stretched out Jesus' hand.

It's not enough to serve God and neighbors in order to experience God. Both Elijah and Peter couldn't experience God until they emptied themselves. At the moment they emptied themselves, they were able to hear the whisper of God and see the hand of Jesus. We will be able to hear God's voice and see the hand of Jesus when we empty ourselves.

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