



The Courage to Forgive

1 Kings 18:25-29, 36-38: "Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, 'Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it.'²⁶ So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, 'O Baal, hear us!' But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made.²⁷ And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, 'Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened.'²⁸ So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them.²⁹ And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention. And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, 'LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word.'³⁷ Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again.'³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

1 Kings 19:1-5 "Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword.² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.'³ And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, 'It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!'⁵ Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, 'Arise and eat.'"

Acts 1:8: "But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my **witnesses...**"

Romans 8:26: "...the Spirit helps us in our weakness."

Matthew 18:34: " In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be **tortured**..."

2 Corinthians 3:17 "...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **freedom**."

*All scriptures referenced are from the New International Version (NIV)
translation of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.*