

## Mid-Week Devotion



### *Turning Down the Volume*

**Read 1Kings 19:9-14**

**“...a sound of gentle blowing.”**

Elijah was a great prophet and servant of the Lord. God had communicated with him many times over the course of his life. It was, thinking back, a wonderful time in history when God would speak directly to His chosen. God spoke to Adam in the Garden, to Moses through a burning bush, to the exodus Hebrews from a cloud and even to a man named Balaam through a donkey! However, on this occasion Elijah would have to look, or perhaps listen for God elsewhere.

Every day the human ear is assaulted by sounds from just about everything around us; our children crying or complaining, our cars on the drive to work, our TV's, radios, and iPods. In fact, our world has become so loud, all too often we can't even hear ourselves think! We measure those sounds in units called decibels. Decibel levels begin at zero, which is near total silence and the weakest sound our ears can hear. By comparison, a whisper is 30 decibels and a normal conversation is 60 decibels. As the number of decibels increase, the level of sound increases exponentially. For example, an increase of 10 means that a sound is 10 times more intense, or powerful. The sound of an ambulance siren at 120 decibels is about 1 trillion times more intense than the weakest sound our ears can hear. The title of “Loudest Rock Band” on record is currently held by a British Punk band called Gallows at 132.5 decibels! Considering that damage to our ears starts at about 85 decibels, which is just slightly louder than your alarm clock, one might want to rethink going to a Gallows concert!

One day while Elijah was camped out at Mt Horeb (the mountain of God,) he was told to “go forth and stand before the LORD.” So he stands at the mouth of the cave and there he hears and observes a hurricane like wind hurling great rocks, smashing them to bits. However, scripture says, God was not in the wind. Then there was a violent earthquake, but God was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake, a great fire, however, God would not be found in the fire either. However, after the fire, came a *gentle blowing*, or perhaps better translated from the Hebrew, *a brief sound of silence*, and in this silence Elijah would finally find God.

A recent internet blog called “Small Church Sound”, whose vision statement reads “worshiping God a little louder,” claims that turning up the volume results in people becoming more engaged. While turning up the volume on the TV may make you hear it better, when it comes to finding and hearing God, just the opposite is true. As Elijah would learn, it is not in turning up the volume of our already busy and chaotic lives that we find God, but rather “in the brief sound of silence.” How much quiet time per day do you spend with the Savior, an hour, 15 minutes, 15 seconds? When I travel and am away on Sundays, I often frequent other churches in which to worship. In almost all of them there is a time offered for silent confession, which lasts about 15 seconds! Why, our lives have become so noisy that when we do get a sample of what Elijah experienced, 15 seconds is all we can take! Somehow, the silence makes us uneasy, uncomfortable; anything longer and we're squirming in our seats.

Turning up the volume is not the answer to being able to find God, or even hear Him speak; on the contrary, turning up the volume is a sure way of not finding Him. In other words, if you want to hear what the world has to say, turning up the volume may help, but if you want to hear what God has to say to you, turn the volume down; or better yet, turn it off all together.

***Dear LORD, speak to me now in the quiet, I am listening.....***