

If I be a man of God

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God always finds a man willing to be His man when He needs him. God can and will move in the crisis of human history to warn, rebuke, judge, fulfill His purposes, and otherwise intervene in the affairs of men.

The term “man of God” is used 75 times throughout Scripture. The first to be called “man of God” was Moses (**Dt. 33:1**). The term was used among the people for a prophet or a spokesman for God (**Ex. 4:16**) (*Dakes Study Bible*)

2 Kings 1:9-13 In the reign of King Ahaziah he became ill and sent forth messengers to inquire of the god Baalzebub as to if he should live or die because there was no God in Israel.

In his book *Can Man Live without God*, Ravi Zacharias speaks of the Philosopher Fredrick Nietzsche, whose ideas were among the most to influence and shape the thinking of such men as Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini. Nietzsche proposed that the idea of God’s existence has come and gone, God is dead.

We are living the days of Elijah when men see themselves as the only living god because they cannot see God in anyone else. Where are the true men of God? Just as with King Ahaziah who concluded that there was no God in Israel, so men have concluded that there no longer is a God in America. Sure, there are gods of men’s creative imagination or intuitive superstition. But there is no true God among the children of men. Even those who profess Christ dare not doubt that God still exist least we lose the cultural war and all that is a stake. But each of us has asked the question nonetheless. Where is God in all this mess?

In Les Vegas I felt like Daniel who had suddenly been transported into the world of Nebechnezzar’s Babylon. Someone asked me what I thought thus far. I replied, “I am not too impressed the Babylon’s gods.” What I seen literally were signs, symbolism, and the perverted practiced lifestyles of the worship of Babylonian and Egyptian gods. As I stood in my hotel window staring out at the city of Les Vegas I said to God, “look at what we have done.” How could anyone amidst all the perversion, materialism, and vanity ever see you? God’s response, “Are you a man of God or not?”

Ahaziah sends messengers to inquire of Baalzebub as to if he would live or die. God then speaks to Elijah and tells him to intercept the messengers and tell them to tell the King that it is not because there is no God in Israel that you inquire of Baalzebub and you will surely die in your bed.

What did God mean, “*it is not because there is no God in Israel that you inquire of Baalzebub*”? The King was not having to inquire of a false god because the God of Israel was dead but because they had forsaken Him and His ways and He could no longer be heard of them. They perceived the God of Israel no longer existed because their hearts had turned from Him and there were no men or women of God whom the glory, power, and authority of God could be seen through. But now God has sent Elijah to inform him that the God of Israel was alive and well and was back in town.

People, God is still on the throne and He is still very much a part of this nation. You can build a building to look like anything on the surface but regardless of what it looks like on the surface it must have a sure foundation or it will not stand at all. In Branson, MO they have a building of Reply’s Believe It or Not. The building is built to look like the roof is falling off, the pillars are crumbling, doors, windows, all look as if they are falling apart. But the foundation is not compromised. The foundation is engineered and designed as any other to ensure stability. The same is with our nation. No matter how much they try to take God out of it. No matter how perverted it gets in Vegas, the foundation of our nation lies with those who hold to the Word of God. No matter what your circumstance looks like on the surface, Christ is still a sure foundation otherwise you would not even remain standing and a live this very moment.

Beginning in **verse 9** the King sends fifty soldiers to find the prophet and bring him to the King. When they found him the Captain called to him with authority, “man of God come see the King.” Elijah replied, “*If I be a man of God let fire come and consume thee.*” And it did so.

Again in **verse 11** the same happens. And finally in verse 13 the third captain approaches Elijah a quite a different manner. He approaches him with humility and reverence requesting instead of demanding.

First, we should approach God in the same manner as the third captain and not the first two. Second, as Elijah did not respond to the authority of King Ahaziah or his captains as the sovereign authority in his life but the Words of God, so we should ask ourselves, “Who is the authority in my life? Is God’s Word the final authority?”

This is the first of the qualifications of a man or woman of God. Do I allow God to speak into my life? If I do not like what I hear or what I want to hear do I disregard it as God? Do I truly know the Voice and Word of God?

I find seven significant qualifications of a man of God

1. Absolute surrender encompassing humility and obedience
2. Know the Scripture (2 Tim. 3:15-17)
3. Be perfect (2 Tim. 3:17)
4. Be thoroughly furnished unto all good works (2 Tim. 3:17)
5. Be inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Tim. 3:17)
6. Allow Jehovah to make Himself known (Ezekial 3:17)
7. Be qualified to act in God’s stead (Judge 13:6)
(Dakes Study Bible)

Are you a man or woman of God? Can God speak through you, use you, count on you to represent Him and trust you to obey His every Word? If you be a man of God you do not fear the enemy, you do not covet your own life or agenda, you guard your tongue and your ears, and you walk in honor and integrity. If you be a man or woman of God then you are not moved by your circumstances but you trust in the Word of the Lord, you trust in the authority of which you represent. If you be a man of God you walk in obedience to His precepts and walk in His ways.

In **I Kings 17:18-24** this same prophet encounters a widow whose son God had given to her has died. She calls to the “man of God” as to why. In **verse 20** it says that the “*man of God cried out to the Lord.*” He then lies on top of the child three times and life came back into him and the women says in verse 24, “I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth.” Why did this woman call him a man of God? Why did she believe he had the words of truth? She believed he had the words of truth and was a man of God because he cried out to God, because he was a man of compassion, because he was a man of obedience, because he was a man of authority, because every where he went, everything he said, everything he did brought LIFE, because of his HEART.

Mr. Anthony Franklin recently had to go to the hospital and there they drained fluid off of his knee. Those who took him were Dr. Woody and Claudia Tolleson. Last week I asked my wife to call the bug exterminator who sprays our home. I asked her to coordinate with him to spray the church. When she called he said it would be a week or so because he had fallen off of a roof. When she finally was able to meet him here at the church to spray they began to speak of his accident. Pastor Angie stated that someone in our church had had an accident that same weekend and went to the same hospital. The gentleman then exclaimed that he was there when Mr. Franklin was brought in. He said he was in the cubical next to him. He asked, who were those people who brought him in? I never knew such Christians existed. They were awesome and I would like to meet them.

In **I Samuel 10:6** we find where the prophet spoke to Saul and God said, “*thou shalt be turned into another man...*” He goes on in **verse 9** and says that “*God gave him another heart.*” In **2 Corinthians 5:17-20** the Apostle Paul tells us that “*if any man be in Christ he is a new creature...*” You are a new, a different kind of man or woman. And in **verse 20** he states, “*You are an ambassador of Christ.*” You represent him. You are called a “man of God.”

Are you that man or woman of God? Do you have Father’s heart? Does what come out of your mouth bring LIFE? Do you walk in truth and obedience to that truth? Is Christ the foundation of all you are and desire to be? If you be a man of God, then be it so.