

GETTING BACK ON TRACK

THIS CURRENT DARKNESS

- Our environment has not helped
 1. Fear, division and strife are magnified
 2. Bombarded with negativity- tv, internet, social media
 3. Isolation - cut off from our faith family
 4. Very few have acknowledged being sharper, clearer spiritually
- Not dulled down by the darkness (**1Thessalonians 5:5-6 NLT**)
 1. God's plan is that a dark environment does not dominate us
 2. In these days we need to be sharp and alert, not sleeping

WHEN A GODLY MAN WENT OFF THE RAILS (1 Kings 19:1-8 NKJV)

- Running without God
 1. For some reason Jezebel got a reaction out of Elijah
 2. He ran without praying, or confronting or acting like God's man for that nation
 3. Elijah had just encountered amazing miracles, provision, answers to prayer
- Abandoned his help
 1. Why leave the one who's purpose was to support you?
 2. His servant could encourage and take a physical load off
- Felt sorry for himself
 1. A bit over dramatic
 2. Told the Lord he had enough - just kill me
 3. What was with the comparison with his ancestors - it takes a better man than me
- The one smart thing Elijah did - eat the supernatural food the angel gave him
 1. We see the mercy of God being good to Elijah in his down time

GETTING BACK ON TRACK SPIRITUALLY

- Be intentional about living closer to God
 1. It's easy to run off without Him - but we follow our Shepherd
 2. Remember - what He has done for us
 3. Recognize His presence - thanksgiving and prayer
 4. Rely on Him (**Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV**)
- Stay connected to help
 1. We don't do as well in isolation
 2. God sets ministry gifts in the church - who's purpose is to help
 3. We can strengthen and encourage each other (**Hebrews 10:25 NKJV**)
- Do not indulge in self pity
 1. It may feel good for a moment but it doesn't produce anything good
 2. Self pity can lead to a victim's mentality - but God never calls us victims
- Feed for the journey not for the moment
 1. Feed on the things that strengthen us spiritually
 2. God's word is the best spiritual food we can feed on (**Psalms 119:28 NKJV**)