

## ***“Let Me Never Be Ashamed”***

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**Introduction:** Those that trust God will find great strength in the trials of life.

A. This world is a battlefield between two different ways of thinking. **(Rom 8:1, 5, 13)**

1. How can I find the courage and strength to be different from the world?
2. I must come to know God and finally yield my life to Him in trust.
3. In lesser ways we do this with crucial relationships. (Ex. marriage)

B. What will my future hold? **(Rom 8:18-19)**

1. Here is the acid test for where we put our trust.
2. “The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.”
3. Let us learn from great examples of faith. **(Josh 1:9; Ps 34:4-5)**

### ***I. Elijah endured years as an isolated “trouble maker.”***

A. All of us are born into our own worldly generation with common ways of thinking.

1. Some of the discussion of the generational thinking of “baby boomers, millennials, etc.” has some truth. We are social people and wish to belong.
2. God’s people have always had to overcome the thinking of each generation. **(Ps 78:8)**

3. How can a biblical faith be developed in each of us? **(1 Jn 5:4-5)**

4. We can only help our generation by putting God first. **(Ps 71:18-19; 73:15-17; Acts 13:36)**

B. King Ahab was a popular leader with the people. **(Jer 5:31)**

1. He had no concept of sin and shame. God’s standard would be despised and those who spoke it. Riches, power, negotiation and intimidation were his way.
2. What God saw and what worldly people saw were very different. **(1 Kgs 16:30-33)**

3. In any generation there would be no peace between those who served God and those who in “common sense” sought peace with the world!

C. God had Elijah speak out. **(1 Kgs 17:1)**

1. God is presented as “the Lord God of Israel” and is described as he that “lives.”

2. This had to startle and disturb Ahab.

3. Elijah stated that it was God “before whom I stand.” Our God He is alive!

4. God’s power would be demonstrated. Imagine the horrible drought.

5. The word Ahab had forsaken would now be against him. **(Josh. 23:16)**

6. For years there seemed to be no consequences. Many draw wrong conclusions.

7. No doubt many in Israel were ashamed of Elijah! Paul understood this challenge! **(2 Tim 1:7-8)**

### ***II. There will come a day where the object of our trust will be exposed***

A. We can learn much when unwise trust is exposed. **(Isa 20:5)**

1. We often are gullible and later look back in shame.

2. The experience of *the godly over time* is very valuable. The younger generation needs to understand that God's wisdom is *not just mindless tradition*.
- B. God sought to *bring Ahab and Israel to shame* over their worship of Baal.
  1. The drought should have brought all of them to repentance. *It did not however.* (Jer 14:22)
  2. Now God will bring a demonstration before all Israel. (1 Kings 18:17-20)
  3. Did Ahab know why there was a drought? If Elijah had such power, *where only could it have come from?* Why does Ahab show such hostility towards Elijah?
- C. Real trust in the God who provides takes *a mind that will reason and think*.
  1. Satan intimidates and *uses relationships to shut down minds*. Many who proclaim "freedom" often are in a harsh slavery. (2 Cor 3:14; 4:4)
  2. Satan's forces *never want an open and fair opportunity to debate*. Darkness is always preferred. God has forced Ahab to this demonstration.
  3. Israel under Ahab had become a faithless, cowardly people. (1 Kings 18:21)
  4. The forces of Baal were allowed all the time they needed to demonstrate what they could do. (1 Kings 18:22-29)
  5. The prophets of Baal were zealous and sacrificial. How was the truth to be determined on this day, *emotion or reason?*
- D. There were two reactions to the powerful demonstration of God. (1 Kings 18:36-40)
  1. The people could plainly see that *trusting in Baal had been shameful*. They were fortunate to learn this lesson while still living.
  2. Ahab at first appeared humbled. (1 Kgs 18:42)
  3. Both Israel and Ahab had built a life on worldly principles. The forces that had molded them *were still there!* In Ahab's case it was *his wife Jezebel*.
  4. Ahab was not able to overcome this influence. (1 Kgs 19:1-2)

### ***III. We must learn to never be ashamed of God***

- A. Throughout our lives *we can see the certainty of trusting God!* (Psa 31:1-4; 71:5-6)
  1. God tells exactly what He will do and rest assured that He will keep His word!
  2. Jesus knew this *as he tasted death!* (Psa 31:1, 5)
  2. We learn to think and choose upon a doctrinal core. We are honest and open. (Ps 119:5-6, 46-47, 78-80, 116)
  3. Truth brings *a willingness to be tested* and a life of thanksgiving and praise. This kind of faith is very different from worldly churches. (Ps 71:1, 7-8 NASV)
  4. Satan wants to *isolate you and never have your choices tested*. Relationships and passion can become the power that pulls you into darkness. (Ps 1:1-2)
- B. One day we will desire with all that we are that *God is not ashamed of us*.
  1. What will we hear when we stand before God? (Mk 8:38)
  2. We must not be ashamed of or cast off those who serve God!
  3. We may *need to be ashamed* at how little we know! (2 Tim 2:15)

***Conclusion:*** Repentance can bring *a future without shame!* (Jer 20:11-12)