

Elijah Now

Turning Hearts Preparing People

Have you been accused of drunkenness lately? I haven't and I'm disturbed by that. Yes, that's what I meant to say. No one has thought I was drunk for a very long time...

I have come to the conclusion that counseling, as a profession, is a necessary evil. It brings insight but not the power to do anything about it. For most people, it is a rent-a-friend who has some education in an area. I do a lot of maintenance with my clients, helping to keep them stable. While that is important, I am not satisfied with that as an end result. I want them to see the power of God moving in their lives so they can trust more, risk more, *live* more. Managing symptoms is a step; it's not the end. I deeply desire to move them out of 'tolerable recovery' into a Light that makes the demons flee. I am desperate for myself to find the same thing.

I have always believed that I can't take anyone somewhere I haven't gone. And I'll be honest, over the last 10 years of maturing, I have had thoughts, insights, spiritual awakenings... but I'm still just tolerable. I am so thankful that I have to quit working for a while. I believe in my heart that God has the power to change lives and save people from sin. But what I need to experience is, *Can God save me from me? From my distrust of His character, my fears of being deeply alone, from my fierce independence that says, 'God, I don't expect you to come through for me' while I'm running away...* I see so much of my clients in myself. I see their desperation wrestling with their fear. And I feel impotent. Not because I can't do anything. Because I haven't experienced the Answer. I still travel in spheres of distrust and fear. This isn't about instant healing or being hard on myself. I'm relatively good at my profession. But to summarize an author I was perusing last night, we need more elders, not more experts. We need people who have sat at the feet of God tenaciously so that they can lead others there. I haven't done that. My impotence is well earned. For all these reasons and more, I'm glad to be taking a break from counseling.

In Acts 2, the passions sparked by the Holy Spirit made people think that the church was drunk at 9 am. I crave that kind of fire. Later in the chapter Peter quotes Psalm 16, "I saw the Lord always before me... my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope... You have made known to me the paths of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence." I don't want to counsel again until I can say with certainty: This is my story. Is it yours?

Blessings,
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