



Only I Syndrome or The Elijah syndrome

One temptation every person will encounter as they are making a difference is to think that they are the only ones changing lives and making a difference. I call this the **"Only I Syndrome or The Elijah syndrome"** which means that a person thinks that no one else is making a difference, is faithful, and so forth but them. This can be detrimental. This has to be realized on the Individual level and at the ministry or corporate level.

Some folks believe that nothing can get done without them and it is only them that can make a difference. It is required of them to be present for the things of the Lord to continue, they believe. Even much more, it is only them that God has anointed and given a certain gift which everyone else lacks but needs. It is only them and all should reach out to them and contact them. What a sad state to be in!

Ministry example/Point:

At the time of writing this, I serve in the ministry of Andrew Wommack and I have served in the past under River Rock Church (Pastored by Rick and Joann McFarland) and I can say these ministries are making a huge impact and in my humble opinion one the biggest if not the deepest yet they all know and will publicly say that they are not only them that is making a difference. There are many other ministries that God has raised up that are changing lives and making a difference for the kingdom of God not just a handful as many may suppose. These ministries I have just mentioned above do not have the "Only I syndrome" like some ministries that belittle or even trash everyone else. No single ministry is completely gifted to meet all the needs of the people. It does not exist.

Thinking we are the only ones making a difference is the very definition of pride and self-centeredness. The scope of the harvest cannot be achieved by just one ministry or person. Ministering and reaching people is bigger than any single ministry. This is a load that no single ministry can carry alone.

Many people and ministries have given their all to try to reach everyone only to discover that they cannot and have gotten burned out in the process. It is overwhelming to think that nothing can get done in the body without your direct involvement and participation.

It is pride for any ministry to think that it is the only one that is making a difference and has been anointed to meet all the needs of the body.

1 Kings 18:22 Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

- a) Elijah thought he was the only faithful man alive. He thought no one else is making a difference but him. He thought no one else was as faithful as he was. When God revealed the number of other faithful men and women, it was astounding. It should be encouraging to know that we are not the only making a difference.
- b) No one is the full manifestation of Jesus. It is very tempting to think that because you are very gifted and used of God, no one else is present to do what you are doing.
- c) Jesus did not have the "Only I syndrome." He got help from John the Baptist and the Disciples. John the Baptist made a difference.
- d) As much as Paul was a man who made a huge difference, he was not the only one. When he left, the gospel did not stop being preached. It went on.

Example: I had a lady who shared with me her story of how she was busy serving God in a church choir. She thought the choir could not go on without her, but soon she got grounded by an accident and she was out for about 6 months. Guess what? She quickly learned something that has been a valuable lesson to her. The ministry did not cease, nor did the choir. People stepped up and took that choir on and by the time she returned, it was found in a different and better place. It had also improved.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? 18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 19 And if they were all one member, where were the body? 20 But now are they many members, yet but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. 24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: 25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

a) These passages show the need for each part of the body and how we are a body, **not body parts**. We function together not independently hence there is nothing like the "Only I Syndrome" because every part is crucially important and adds value. Every part of the body is making a difference.

i) Yes, there are many parts (members), but each member has a purpose and part to play hence important.

ii) We also see a need of unity being presented by the same passage.

iii) Ministry does not end because you departed. We are a body of Christ, not body parts. We are all members who have a part to play.

b) We need to acknowledge others and the part they play in the building of the kingdom. We are a body and a body has many parts. Each part plays a part and it is important. We should not overlook other parts for the visible parts.

In conclusion, we need to remember that another person or ministry play a part although they may not be as awesome as you are. Be open to learn from these who you think do not have it all together.