

REACTION TO A LIVING TESTIMONY

John M. Sinclair

Often when Jews wanted to identify the true God in contrast to the false gods of the heathen, they referred to Him as “the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob” (Exodus 3:6, 15, 16; 4:5; Matthew 22:32; Mark 12:26; Acts 3:13). However, when Elijah had just departed to heaven in the chariot of fire, and Elisha wanted to call on God to display the same power through him, he did *not* cry out, “Where is the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?” Instead, he cried out, “Where is the LORD God of *Elijah*?” (2 Kings 2:14). That’s the only time mentioned in the Bible when any one identified God by associating Him with someone he had known personally. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had lived centuries before Elisha, but he had known Elijah, observed him, and probably even been trained by him. He had *seen God’s reality in him*.

If a saint in our day were to call on God to display His power as it had been displayed in the past, we could imagine his crying out, “Where is the LORD God of the Reformers, or of George Whitefield, or of Hudson Taylor, George Mueller, or Hudson Taylor.” But could any of us imagine anyone who had known us personally and had opportunity to observe our spiritual lives, crying out, “Where is the LORD God of. . .”— and putting in *our* name? The reason for wanting that it be so, is not pride and desire of recognition, but rather a test of the extent to which the power of God is displayed in our lives. His power may not be displayed by working miracles, but it ought to be displayed by evidence that God is *real to us* and that we *know* Him. We ought to aspire to finding people longing to know God as we have known Him.
