

Priscilla Shirer



WHY GOD ALLOWS SEASONS OF SEPARATION

Transcribed and Published by LivingSermons.com

Topic: Why God Allows Seasons of Separation

Preacher: Priscilla Shirer

Published By: LivingSermons.com

Watch Live Sermon [Here](#)



Title: Why God Allows Seasons of Separation

Author: Priscilla Shirer

Publisher: Livingsermons.com

© 2026 **Livingsermons.com**

All rights reserved.

No portion of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, or otherwise—except for brief quotations in critical reviews or articles, without prior written permission from the copyright holders.

For the advancement of the Gospel of the Kingdom and the edification of the Body of Christ.

Scripture quotations are taken from the *King James Version (KJV)* of the Holy Bible, which is public domain. **THIS BOOK IS NOT FOR SALE**

First Edition — 2026

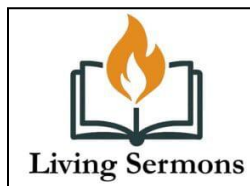
All inquiries and permissions:

info.livingsermons@gmail.com

www.livingsermons.com

Transcribed, Edited, and Published by Livingsermons.com

For Kingdom impact worldwide.



Foreword

In *Why God Allows Seasons of Separation*, Priscilla Shirer unveils a truth that is often misunderstood in the life of faith: that God's greatest works in us are frequently accomplished in hidden places. In a generation that esteems visibility, speed, and outward results, this message calls us back to the sacred rhythm of divine preparation—where God forms character, builds endurance, and establishes unshakable intimacy with Himself.

With clarity and conviction, she walks us through the life of Elijah, drawing our attention not to the dramatic triumph of Mount Carmel, but to the quiet, often overlooked season at the brook Cherith. It is here that we are reminded that before public victory comes private formation; before divine display comes divine development.

This message is both timely and timeless. In moments where life feels uncertain, restricted, or unexpectedly altered, it offers divine perspective: that separation is not abandonment—it is preparation. It is in these seasons that God sustains, surprises, and shields His people, often in ways that could never be orchestrated by human effort.

As you read, may you resist the urge to rush past this season of your life. Instead, may you lean into it—discerning the voice of the Spirit, embracing the process, and trusting the faithfulness of God who works all things according to His divine purpose.

May this message strengthen your heart, steady your faith, and anchor your soul in the assurance that even in separation, God is near—working, shaping, and preparing you for what lies ahead.

— *Wisdom Epsi*

Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com

Table of Contents

Foreword
Publisher's Note
Main Message
Begins Here
Opening Exhortation/Prayer
Seeing Differently
Knowing God Beyond a Distance
An Invitation in the Middle of the Storm
The Courage of Mount Carmel
The Place of Separation
The Brook Called Cherith
The Meaning of Separation
When God Cuts Things Away
Where Preparation Begins
Set Apart for What Is Coming
The Covenant of Cutting
When God Meets You in the Separation
Sustained in the Secret Place
Why You Yield to Separation
Discovering God in Your Weakness
Why Ravens?
Beyond What You Could Ask
Building a History with God
Protected in the Hidden Place
The Purpose of the Brook
Closing Prayer
About the Speaker
About Living Sermons
Join Our Team
We Are Social

Publisher's Note

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

The live sermon from which this message was transcribed can be accessed here: [Going Beyond Ministries](#)

Livingsermons.com does not claim ownership of this message. All spiritual credit and ministerial authority belong to the preacher through whom the Word was delivered. Our role is that of stewards and editors—serving the Body of Christ by preserving and distributing life-giving messages in accessible digital formats.

Our commitment is excellence without dilution.

Our standard is reverence for the Word of God.

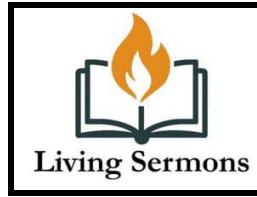
Our daily goal is to transform powerful live sermons into polished PDF and ebook editions for the edification of the Body of Christ.

It is our prayer that as you read, the same grace, conviction, clarity, and impartation present in the live service will minister to you afresh.

— *Livingsermons.com*

A Spirit-led Publishing Stewardship

Main Message
Begins Here



Opening Exhortation/Prayer

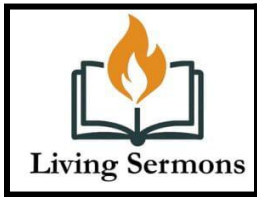
When you were praying that prayer—asking God for that miracle, asking Him for a solution, for a remedy for the difficulty you are having in your parenting, in raising your children, in your marriage, on your job, in that classroom, in that courtroom, or in the struggle you are facing in your own health—you never even prayed a prayer like that before. You had no way of knowing that God could do something so unbelievably miraculous. But in the place of separation, not only does He sustain you—He starts surprising you.

Let's pray together.

Lord Jesus, thank You so much for this privilege. It is such an honour to know that You are not bound by space or by time, that You are not confined to a building. So, Father, in these moments, as we are meeting in this unique way, I am so grateful that You have met each of us exactly where we are. Lord, would You do it again today?

Would You take this one simple message, divide it and multiply it however many ways You need to, so that every single person reading this book hears directly from the mouth of God today?

In Jesus' name, Amen.



Seeing Differently

Here in Dallas, where I am, there is a half marathon that takes place once a year during the holiday season in December. It is called the *Hot Chocolate Run*.

It is fun—people come with Christmas lights in their hair, light-up shoes—it is festive. The run, whether one mile, three miles, or five, goes through an area of town known as the Design District.

At the end, you get sweets—hot chocolate being one of them. I did this for several years with my sister and her children. We would bring all the kids and either walk or run, but always enjoy ourselves.

One thing I remember most is that this run went through the Design District. I had known about that place my entire life. I was born and raised in this city. I had seen the billboard off Highway 35 that said “Design District.” I knew it was where the designers were—artists, craftsmen, interior decorators, artisans. I had seen it from afar. I had even known people who worked there. But I was always just passing by—racing from one side of town to the other.

That run was the first time I actually went through it. Walking through it. Jogging through it. Interacting with people in it. And when I did, I saw details about Dallas I had never seen before. There were little shops and restaurants I took note of—places I marked so I could return later and explore more deeply.

I gained a greater appreciation for the Design District—not when I saw it from afar, but when I went through it.

Right now, God is allowing many of us to go through something, isn't He?

We are going through things individually. Communities are going through things. Churches are going through things. Nations—indeed, the entire globe—is going through something.

And I have found that it is not until I go through something that I begin to see nuances about God—about His character, about my relationship with Him.

It is not until I go through something that I discover His promises more completely—not just seeing them in other people's lives, but expecting them to be true in my own.

It is when I go through something that I develop character. It is when I go through something that I gain endurance. It is when I go through something that I learn what it means to live a life of faith.

Knowing God Beyond a Distance

It is when I go through something that I become better acquainted with the Holy Spirit. He is no longer just theoretical. Now I begin to recognise His fruit alive in me—patience, self-discipline, kindness. I learn what it means to walk in the rhythms of grace.

You do not learn that from a distance. You do not learn that from a billboard. You do not truly know God by observing Him from afar or merely engaging in religious activity.

But when you go through something— there is a friendship that develops with God that carries you over the long haul.

An Invitation in the Middle of the Storm

So if today finds you going through something, would you recognise this as an opportunity?

An opportunity for your spiritual eyes to be opened. An opportunity to learn, to see, and to engage with God in a way you otherwise would not.

This is one of the reasons I have been drawn to the life of Elijah. Elijah is the premier prophet of the Old Testament. His story begins in 1 Kings. When we think about the heroes of Scripture—Moses and the Red Sea, Joshua and the walls of Jericho, Gideon, Jonah, Esther, Ruth—we remember the highlights.

And for Elijah, we remember Mount Carmel.

That dramatic moment where fire fell from heaven.

The Courage of Mount Carmel

On Mount Carmel, Elijah stood before his people and said:

“How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.” (1 Kings 18:21, KJV)

He challenged them boldly— “Build your sacrifice, and I will build mine. The God who answers by fire—He is God.”

What kind of courage does it take to stand alone like that?

We are living in a time when it will require great boldness to remain unashamed, unwavering, and committed as followers of Jesus Christ. And when Elijah stood firm, fire fell. God’s presence was revealed in an unforgettable way.

But I do not want to talk to you about Mount Carmel. I want to talk about what Elijah went through before he ever got there. Because that is where his character was built. That is where his faith was formed. That is where his prayer life was developed.

The Place of Separation

It all begins in 1 Kings 17.

“The word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.” (1 Kings 17:2–3, KJV)

Sometimes, the journey God takes us on begins in a place of separation. Not in public—but in private.

Here is Elijah—arguably the most important figure at that moment in Israel’s history. Without him, the worship of Yahweh could have disappeared under the rule of an evil king and Jezebel. And yet God says:

“I do not need you in public right now. I need you in private.”

“I am going to prepare you by separating you.”

The Brook Called Cherith

Elijah is sent to a lonely brook—Cherith. For approximately eighteen months, he is there alone with God.

Separated from normal life.

Separated from routine.

Separated from people.

A season of isolation.

The Meaning of Separation

The word *Cherith* comes from a root that means:

- **To cut off.**
- **To sever.**
- **To eliminate.**

It is a painful word. It carries the idea of something being cut away—like a part of the body. And sometimes, when God calls us to Himself, it feels exactly like that. Painful.

When God Cuts Things Away

Separation can feel like loss.

We are pulled away from routines.

From relationships.

From places where we once found identity, approval, or significance.

And it can hurt.

But sometimes, God allows that severing—not to harm us, but to prepare us. Sometimes God mandates separation. Other times, it is just a whisper of the Holy Spirit:

“Separate yourself.”

“Come away for a while.”

From certain habits.

From certain patterns.

From certain relationships.

From misplaced sources of identity.

And if you will yield to that separation—you will encounter God in ways you never would have otherwise.

Where Preparation Begins

Elijah's journey to Mount Carmel began in private.

It began at the brook. It began in separation. So the question is: How is God calling you to separate yourself?

As life begins to return to normal, will you go back to everything as it was?

Or will you seek God and ask Him:

“What must remain different?

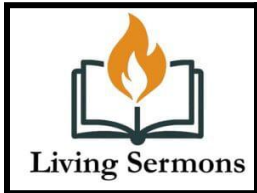
What must remain set apart?”

Set Apart for What Is Coming

God says:

“Separate yourself. It is here that I will prepare you for what is ahead.”

Because the mountaintop moments— the “Mount Carmels” of your life— are always prepared for in hidden places.



The Covenant of Cutting

This idea of “cutting” or “severing” also appears in Genesis 15. Abraham asks God, “How will I know that Your promises will come to pass?”

And God responds in a way Abraham would understand. “I will make a covenant with you.” In those days, a covenant was not just made—it was **cut**. Animals were sacrificed, divided, and laid out. And one party would walk between the pieces, declaring: “May this happen to me if I do not keep my word.”

When God Meets You in the Separation

This is the beauty of it: When God calls you into a season of separation—He is not abandoning you. He is preparing you. He is establishing something deeper. Something covenantal. Something unshakable.

And at the brook—in the quiet place—in the hidden season—God meets you there.

“Prepare the animal.”

Abraham obeyed. He laid the animal out. And then, in one of the most beautiful theophanies—a God-sighting—in all of the Old Testament, the Scripture says that a deep sleep fell upon Abraham.

God caused him to fall asleep so that what was about to happen would not be by works, but by grace. And while Abraham was asleep, God Himself showed up and moved between the pieces, sealing the covenant.

Do you see it?

Abraham did the separating. He did the severing. He did the cutting. But God did the walking.

If you and I will yield to the separation— if we will sever what God is asking us to sever, walk away from what He is asking us to leave behind, and trust Him in the process—He will come down and move within the pieces. We will experience Him in ways we have never experienced Him before. We will see Him in ways we have never seen Him before.

Sustained in the Secret Place

Elijah is about to experience this. “And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook...”
(1 Kings 17:4, KJV)

Now remember—there is a drought in the land. A famine is coming. For three years, people will be desperate for water. Livestock will suffer. Harvests will fail. Survival will be uncertain. And in the midst of all of that, God says to His servant:

“If you separate yourself, I have already made plans to sustain you.”

Why You Yield to Separation

Do you know why you yield—even when it is hard?

Even when it means severing a relationship you know you should not be in...

Even when it means letting go of an ambition, an interest, or a path you have been walking...

You do it because in the place of separation, God has already made provision for your sustenance.

Even if everyone else is thirsty, you will be sustained by the hand of your God.

You are going to need that. Because Mount Carmel is coming. There will be moments when you are surrounded by people—yet standing alone, because you are the only one willing to stand for righteousness. And in that moment, you will need a history with God. A track record of His sustaining power.

Discovering God in Your Weakness

God says to Elijah:

“I have already made plans to sustain you.”

Yes, it may feel lonely.

But it is in loneliness that you discover God as your friend. It is when you are tired that He becomes your strength. When you are hungry, He becomes the Bread of Life. When you are insecure, He becomes your security. When you are empty, He fills you.

In an increasingly post-Christian culture, you will need a backbone that draws from the sustaining power of God. And that strength is cultivated in the place of separation.

But God does not stop at sustaining Elijah. “I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.” (1 Kings 17:4, KJV)

He says, “Everyone else will be searching for food—but not you.” “If you will trust Me in this place, not only will I sustain you—I will surprise you.” Morning and evening, bread and meat will come. Not just survival— but full provision.

Why Ravens?

Now this is what makes the miracle so striking. God did not choose a dove. He chose ravens.

Ravens are restless. They are greedy. They steal food from other birds. They do not return once they leave. And yet God used the most unlikely source to provide.

Why?

So that no one could explain the miracle away. So that you would know:

When you yield to separation, God will not only sustain you— He will surprise you. He will bring provision from places you never imagined.

Beyond What You Could Ask

You did not even know to pray for it. You could not have imagined it. But in the place of separation: God begins to show you—“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think...” (Ephesians 3:20–21, KJV)

He surprises you.

Building a History with God

You are going to need moments like that. Moments where God does something so extraordinary that you carry the testimony for the rest of your life. Moments you can tell your children about.

And your children’s children.

You need a history with God. And that history is built in the place of separation—Where He sustains you, and where He surprises you.

Shielded Without Knowing

But there is more. While Elijah is hidden at the brook, King Ahab is searching for him. A search party is sent throughout the land. Ahab intends to kill him. But Elijah does not even know it. Because he is hidden.

Protected in the Hidden Place

A supernatural covering is over him. So while he is being sustained...
and while he is being surprised...

he is also being shielded from dangers he does not even know exist.

Sometimes we only realise it in hindsight. Looking back, we see: God was protecting us. The prayers He did not answer the way we wanted— were His protection. The delays we resented— were His covering. If He had brought us out too soon, we would have run into dangers we were not ready for.

So if you feel ready to come out of the brook...

Ready to be seen...

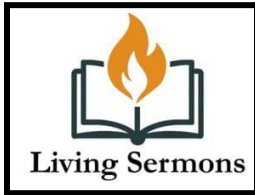
Ready for the obscurity to end...

Ready for life to look the way you imagined...

But the Holy Spirit is still calling you to remain—Then stay. Remain there until He releases you.

The Purpose of the Brook

Because in that place: He will surprise you in ways you will never forget. He will sustain you by His own hand. And one day, you will look back and realise—He was protecting you all along.



Closing Prayer

Let's pray.

Lord Jesus, I thank You for Elijah's example. I thank You for the opportunity we have to know that You are preparing us, even now, for the Mount Carmels yet to come. Help us not to devalue this part of our journey.

But help us to honour You with every day, every moment, every opportunity to see You more clearly and to experience You more fully.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

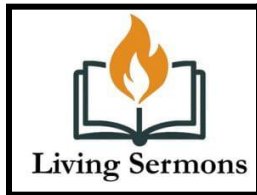
Final Exhortation

Be encouraged.

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.

And remain faithful—right where He has you.

God bless you.

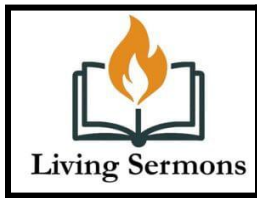


About the Speaker

Priscilla Shirer is a renowned Bible teacher, author, and conference speaker with a global influence in Christian ministry. She is widely recognised for her clear, Spirit-led teaching of Scripture and her ability to communicate deep biblical truths in a way that is both practical and transformational. Through her ministry, she has helped countless believers develop a stronger relationship with God and a deeper understanding of His Word.

As the daughter of Tony Evans, Priscilla Shirer was raised in a Christ-centred environment that shaped her passion for teaching the Scriptures. She serves through Going Beyond Ministries, where she equips believers—particularly women—to study the Word of God with depth and confidence. Her teachings often focus on spiritual growth, identity in Christ, and living a victorious Christian life through faith and obedience.

In addition to her teaching ministry, she is a bestselling author and has been featured in faith-based films such as War Room, where her role further amplified her message on the power of prayer. Across conferences, books, and digital platforms, Priscilla Shirer continues to be a strong voice calling believers to intimacy with God, steadfast faith, and unwavering commitment to truth.



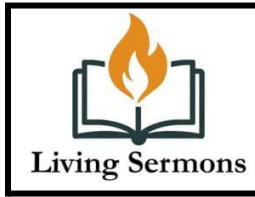
About Living Sermons

Living Sermons is a Spirit-led publishing platform dedicated to transforming timeless messages of God’s servants into books that can reach and impact lives across the world. Our mission is simple: to preserve the wisdom, revelation, and anointing carried in the preached Word and make it accessible in formats that can be studied, shared, and revisited for generations. By turning sermons into high-quality Christian books and eBooks, we extend the life and influence of each message far beyond the pulpit.

At Living Sermons, we believe that the preached Word is living and powerful (Hebrews 4:12). Every sermon carries truth that can instruct, comfort, rebuke, inspire, and transform. Our role is to faithfully capture these words, polish them for clarity and readability, and present them in a way that maintains the preacher’s unique voice and anointing.

Through our work, messages that might otherwise be heard once are preserved as lasting resources for teaching, devotion, discipleship, and evangelism. These books are designed not just for reading but for equipping believers, strengthening families, and advancing the Kingdom of God.

Living Sermons—the preached Word in lasting form.



Join Our Team

At **Livingsermons.com**, our mission is to ensure that sermons inspired by the Holy Spirit are accessible in written form for study, meditation, and reference by believers around the world. This work is growing, and we can't do it alone.

We are inviting passionate believers to volunteer in any of these roles:

- **Transcribers** – Convert sermon recordings into accurate transcripts.
- **Editors** – Refine transcripts into polished, readable eBooks.
- **Bloggers** – Create SEO-friendly posts to share new books.
- **Social Media Managers** – Share books online and engage our community.
- **Language Translators**
- **Graphics Designers**

If you feel led to serve in any of these roles, please reach out through our [Volunteer Page](#) on Livingsermons.com. Together, let's spread the knowledge of Christ to the nations.

We Are Social:

Instagram: [instagram.com/livingsermons](https://www.instagram.com/livingsermons)

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/livingsermons>