

*And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:8 NLV*

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First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY #146

### **Do You Want The Double Portion?**

#### **A Look at the Life of Elisha**

*And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I am taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee, but if not, it shall not be so. And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more, and he took hold of his own clothes and rent them in two pieces. He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him and went back and stood by the bank of Jordan. And he took the mantle of Elijah, that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? And when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither and Elisha went over. And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him and bowed themselves to the ground before him.*

2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 2:9-15

Elisha was the son of Shaphat and of the tribe of Issachar. He was the servant /companion, by his own free will, of Elijah, the great prophet, and he became Elijah's successor. According to Herbert Lockyer in *All the Men of the Bible*, Elijah's name means *Jehovah my God* and suggests the LAW. Elisha's name, on the other hand, means *Jehovah my Savior* and suggests GRACE. While Elijah's ministry was mainly prophetic, Elisha's ministry was mainly miraculous, and indeed, there are twice as many miracles recorded in scripture that Elisha did than Elijah did. Elijah experienced 16 miracles, and Elisha experienced 32 and often Elisha's miracles were twice as great. These miracles include the widow's oil, the Shunamite woman who was blessed with a child who died but was raised from the dead, Naaman's cure from leprosy, revelation from Elisha of the Syrians' war plans, the floating ax head, the servant's eyes opened to the spiritual

warriors with them, and the raising of the dead man thrown into Elisha's tomb. Elijah was one who gave stern denunciations to a wicked nation and was a messenger of God's judgment and vengeance. Elisha, on the other hand, was a teacher and a messenger of God's mercy.

Elisha responded to the call to go into full time ministry when Elijah called him as he was out plowing his father's fields. This was right after the show down with Jezebel's prophets of Baal and right after the rain came following the 3 ½ years of drought.

### **Why was it difficult for Elisha to accept the call from Elijah?**

1. He came from a prominent family and was to inherit a large fortune. To follow Elijah meant that he would be giving all of this up. 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 19:19
2. He loved his family and did not want to leave them. 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 19:20
3. He had to give up his position as foreman or leader of his father's farm to become a humble servant to a man who was not always easy to follow. 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 19:21
4. He had to leave a peaceful life and join himself to someone who was being hunted down like a animal by Queen Jezebel's forces and who was also hated by King Ahab. 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 19:1-3

At the end of Elijah's life, he tested Elisha three times and gave him the chance to stay behind, (and thus not take up the mantle of Elijah) and three times Elisha swore that he would serve him and stay with him as long as Elijah was alive.

According to Bill Gothard, the expression found in II Kings 2:9 "...let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me" literally means "...let a mouth or two of thy spirit be upon me." This same Hebrew idiom appears in Deuteronomy 21:17 and refers to the first born son's right to receive twice the inheritance of his younger brothers. The first born was given twice as much because it was his responsibility to take over as head of the family when the father died. Since Elisha had been selected to take over Elijah's ministry, he was asking for twice as much of the prophetic spirit of Elijah as the other members of the school of the prophets had. This was not greed on Elisha's part. It signaled Elisha's faith, dependence on God, and humility, knowing that he could not do the job that he was called to do without the double portion or double anointing.

## **The Double Portion of Elisha**

1. This proves that there are different measures of the Holy Spirit's anointing power.
2. Could Elijah give twice as much as he himself had? Only by faith and by the Lord honoring his request for Elisha could he do this. It is God who gives the increase. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:6-7)
3. Elisha tore his own clothes when he saw Elijah taken up in both a chariot and a whirlwind. Then he is able to put on Elijah's mantle. This is very symbolic and was an event also seen by at least 50 men. They also witnessed Elisha's first miracle of the parting of the Jordan River when he struck the waters with Elijah's cloak. Therefore, they immediately recognized him as the successor of the translated prophet.
4. The double portion is the anointing which is the divine equipping for service.

## **WHAT IS ANOINTING?**

The word for anoint most often used in the Bible is *mashach* and refers to pouring or smearing oil on someone or something in order to consecrate it for divine service. Anointing imparted God's spirit in a greater way to the anointed. Anointing is an act of God and signals a bestowal of divine favor (Psalm 23:5, Psalm 92:10) or appointment to a special place or function in the purpose of God (Psalm 105:15, Isaiah 45:1). It is associated with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 10:1, Isaiah 61:1, Zacheriah 4:1-4, Acts 10:38, 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:20 and 2:27). Anointed ones are expected to walk in holiness and be separated unto God. The gifts we know are without recompense. I personally believe, based on my own experience, that anointing can be taken away when one is not walking in obedience. Therefore, anointing is not a *gift* as such from the Lord but an *equipping* for greater service. People who were anointed in the Bible were expected to walk in obedience and not break the covenant they had made. Moses' failure to circumcise his sons after being anointed by the Lord to deliver His people Israel was an oversight that nearly costs Moses his life, as the Lord impressed on Moses the importance of following His law rigidly. Anointing from the Lord brings forth empowerment and enhancement, and there are almost always, if not always, results when a person is ministering under the anointing.

## **PURPOSES OF ANOINTING**

*And it shall come to pass in that day that his burden shall be taken away from off your shoulder, and his yoke from off your neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing. Isaiah 10:27*

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. Luke 4:18-19*

*To whom God would make known what is the richest of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY. Colossians 1:27*

- 1. To break “yokes” off of people**
- 2. To preach the Gospel to the poor**
- 3. To heal and restore people**
- 4. To proclaim freedom to the captives**
- 5. To open blind eyes (spiritual as well as physical)**
- 6. To set people free**
- 7. To proclaim God’s timing**

## **TYPES OF ANOINTING**

- 1. Leper’s anointing (Leviticus 14):** This is an anointing symbolized by both blood and oil. It was a once in a lifetime anointing by the priest to lepers. Lepers symbolize sinners, and thus this anointing comes today by the accepting of Jesus in your heart.
- 2. Priestly anointing (Psalm 133, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:9):** This is an anointing symbolized by oil. It was an anointing that was to be done to the priest everyday. It comes from spending time in His Presence.
- 3. Kingly anointing (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 10:1, & 6-7):** This is also an anointing symbolized by oil. In fact, four quarts of oil were usually used. The oil used was olive oil. The olive had to be crushed and is symbolic of Christ who was “*bruised (crushed) for our iniquities*” (Isaiah 53). He experienced the crushing weight of our sins at Gethsemane, the place where olives were brought to be crushed, for the production of oil. This was an anointing for power and spiritual authority. It comes from obedience.

## HOW TO INCREASE THE ANOINTING

1. **Study the Word:** *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15*
2. **Follow on to know the Lord:** *Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord; His going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth. Hosea 6:3*
3. **Wait:** *But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall not run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. Isaiah 40:31*
4. **Pray:** *Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing songs. Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*
5. **Obey:** *And it shall come to pass, if you shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, that I will give you the rain of your land in its due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy grain and thy wine and thine oil. Deuteronomy 11:13-14*

Rain in scripture is often symbolic of the anointing (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 18:41, Joel 2:23, Amos 4:7, Zechariah 10:1). The former rain is the rain that comes at planting when seed are sown. The latter rain is the harvest rain when the crops are gathered. Zechariah 10:1a tells us to *ask of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain*. We know from other studies that the latter rain is symbolic of the end times and the time of the Great Harvest at the end of the age. Grain is symbolic in scripture of the revealed Word of God. Wine symbolizes the joy of the Lord. Oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. Thus, Deuteronomy 11:13-14 tells us that if we love the Lord and serve Him with all our heart (spirit) and soul(mind, will, emotions), we will receive all these things.

*“We live in a time when men and women want anointing without holiness; they want power without righteousness; they want charismata(gifts) from God without sacrifice to God. And when men cannot command God, they attempt to imitate the real with the artificial. The anointing is real, and the anointing is powerful, but the anointing is not to make you rich, to give you a magnetic personality, or to elevate you above your fellows. The anointing is a divine impartation of power for service unto God.*

Mark Hardgrove

*We must wake-up from our sleep. This is the time to turn to the Lord. Come forth in power under the anointing. The Lord has made His Spirit available to you, under the power and authority of His anointed Branch. The Holy Spirit who resides within you-He is the anointing. "It is not an impersonal force that I impart. It is My presence moving through you. The more you give yourself to Me, the more I will give Myself to you, and the more the manifestation of My anointing in your life will increase."*

Teresa Seputis

## BREAD UPON THE WATER

By Bill and Janny Grein

*Well, there are people who think they're not receivin'  
Anything from God at all.*

*Oh, they are shaken from their believing.  
When they don't see results, they quickly fall.*

*But don't you waver-keep on living in the way God wants you to.  
Don't get discouraged. Keep on giving.  
Soon it will come back to you.*

*Keep on casting your bread upon the water.  
Soon it's going to come back home on every wave.  
Keep on casting your bread upon the water.  
Soon it's going to come back home on every wave.  
Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over-  
Soon it's going to come home on every wave.*

*Just keep on working, seeking the Kingdom  
Instead of working for your needs.  
Just keep on sharing the love of Jesus.  
You know growing comes from planting seed.*

*Keep on casting your bread upon the water.  
Soon it's going to come back home on every wave.  
Keep on casting your bread upon the water.  
Soon it's going to come back home on every wave.  
Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over-  
Soon it's going to come home on every wave.*