

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

First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY #167

HEALING: PART OF THE CHILDREN'S BREAD

PART 3

Healing in the Old Testament

The Miracle of the Shunammite's Son

But He was wounded for our transgression, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes, we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

1st Corinthians 15:46-FIRST THE NATURAL & THEN THE SPIRITUAL

However, that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterwards that which is spiritual.

In other words, the natural always types the spiritual so we need to be especially conscious of what is happening in the natural realm in these Last Days so that we can garner clues about what He is going to do spiritually.

1st Corinthians 10:11- The Old Testament Written for Our Example

Now all these things [the wilderness experiences of the Old Testament] happened unto them for examples, and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the age are come. KJV

Now these things befell them by way of a figure [as an example and warning to us]; they were written to admonish and fit us for right action by good instruction, we in whose days the ages have reached their climax (their consummation and concluding period). Amplified

The Prophet Elisha

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. Elijah's name means *Jehovah my God* and suggests the LAW. Elisha's name means *Jehovah my Savior* and suggests GRACE. While Elijah's ministry was mainly prophetic, Elisha's ministry was mainly miraculous. Elisha asked for the double portion of Elijah, and indeed there are twice as many miracles recorded in scripture for Elisha (32) than for Elijah (16). Elisha's miracles include the widow's oil, the

Shunammite's son, Naaman's cure from leprosy, the revelation from Elisha of the Syrians' war plans, the floating ax head, the servant's eyes opened to the spiritual warriors surround them, and the raising of the dead man thrown into Elisha's tomb. Unlike Elijah who gave stern denunciations to a wicked nation and was a messenger of the Lord's judgment and vengeance, Elisha 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 field. This was right after the show down that Elijah had with Jezebel and right after the rain came following the 3 ½ years of drought. At the end of Elijah's life, Elijah 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 lived. This was, however, not an easy commitment for Elisha.

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

1. Elisha 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. 1st Kings 19:19
2. Elisha loved his family and did not want to leave them. 1st Kings 19:20
3. Elisha 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. 1st Kings 19:21
4. Elisha had to leave a peaceful life and join himself to someone who was being hunted down like an animal by Queen Jezebel's forces and who was also hated by King Ahab. 1st Kings 19:1-3

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 21:7 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

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? Obviously, NO! Only by faith and by the Lord honoring his request for Elisha could he do this. It is God only who gives the increase. 1st Corinthians 3:6-7
3. Elisha tore his own clothes when he saw Elijah taken up in both a chariot and a whirlwind. Only then is he 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 to the translated prophet.
4. The double portion is the anointing which is the divine equipping for service.

The Shunammite Woman's Son-2nd Kings 4:8-37

8 *And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shumen, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as often as he passed by, he turned in there to eat bread. She was a wealthy woman.*

9 *And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, who passeth by us regularly. One of the most important gifts of the Spirit for our day is discernment. We need those operating in that gift in the body to keep us from falling in to deception and also to recognize genuine people of God.*

10 *Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, with walls and let us set for him there a bed and a table and a stool and a lampstand. And it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in there. The Lord provides our needs. He simply provided for Elisha. Ministers don't have to live in gated communities with gold bathroom fixtures and air conditioned dog houses. The Pattern Son did not walk around with 5 diamond rings on His hand and did not ride in a golden chariot! The Living Bible in Colossians 3 says that we should have as little desire for the world as a dead person does.*

11 *And it fell on a day, that he came there, and he turned into the chamber and lay there.*

12 *And he said to Gehazi, his servant, Call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him.*

13 *And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou shown care for us with all this care; what is to be one for thee? Wouldest thou be spoken for*

to the king or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people. **Receive a prophet in the name of a prophet, and you will receive a prophet's reward. (Matthew 10:41)**

14 And he said, What, then, is to be done for her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old. **Being childless in this culture was a reproach to a woman especially.**

15 And he said, Call her. And when he had called her, she stood in the door. **She recognizes the sacredness of the room and shows him deference by standing in the door.**

16 And he said, About this season, when the time cometh, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid. **What has the Lord birthed and what is He birthing in you?**

17 And the woman conceived and bore a son at that season that Elijah had said unto her, according to the set time. **For some of you this is a Kairos time, otherwise translated in scripture as the fullness of time, or set time when you will birth something very precious in your spirit.**

18 And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers.

19 And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother. **Apparently he had a heat stroke.**

20 And when he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died. **Has your vision or what the Lord has birthed in you died?**

21 And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God and she shut the door upon him and went out. **Was she operating by fear or faith?**

22 And she called unto her husband and said, Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God and come again. **Elisha was in Carmel fifteen miles away.**

23 And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him today? It is neither new moon, nor Sabbath. And she said, It shall be well. **There is death and life in the power of the tongue. Proverbs 18:21**

24 Then she saddled an ass and said to her servant, Drive, and go forward, slacken not thy riding for me, except I bid thee. **Don't slow down for your miracle.**

25 So she went and came unto the man of God to Mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi, his servant, Behold, over there is the Shunammite.

26 Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee?

Is it well with thy husband? Is it well with the child? And she answered, It is well.

27 And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone; for her soul is bitter within her, and the LORD hath hidden it from me and hath not told me.

28 Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? Did I not say, Do not deceive me?

29 Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins and take my staff in thine hand and go thy way. If thou meet any man, greet him not; and if any greet thee, answer him not again; and lay my staff upon the face of the child. A staff represents authority, and in the Old Testament the authority was the LAW, but a dead stick nor religion and tradition bounded up in the Law can bring life.

30 And the mother of the child said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And he rose and followed her.

31 And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him and told him saying, The child has not awakened.

32 And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead and lay upon his bed.

33 He went in, therefore, and shut the door upon the two of them and prayed unto the LORD.

34 And he went up and lay upon the child and put his mouth upon his mouth and his eyes upon his eyes and his hands upon his hands; and he stretched himself upon the child, and the flesh of the child became warm. Remember how Paul also lay upon Eutychus who fell out the window, down three stories, after going to sleep because of Paul's long preaching, and the dead boy lived.

Why did the boy come back to life? Because of the anointing on the Man of God and the Holy Spirit in the prophet. These miracles are happening today in many parts of the world. (Mega Shift by Jim Rutz)

35 Then he returned and walked in the house to and fro and went up and stretched himself upon him; and the child sneeze seven times and the child opened his eyes.

36 And he called Gehazi and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.

37 Then she went in and fell at his feet and bowed herself to the ground and took up her son and went out. Have you bowed down and worshiped Him for restoring your vision or birthing your desire?

I have mentioned this the past two Mondays and am mentioning it again tonight. Some of you received my e-mail on this. Please, please, please go to Youtube and look up RW Shambach Greatest Miracle I Ever Saw Part One and Two. It is only about 10 minutes. It will bless your heart and increase your faith for healing miracles in our times.

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

I'M FREE
By Bill Gaither

So long I had searched for life's meaning,
Enslaved by the world and its greed;
Then the door of the prison was opened by love,
For the ransom was paid-I was free.

I'm free from the guilt that I carried,
From that dull empty life I'm set free.
For when I met Jesus, He made me complete.
He forgot the foolish man I used to be.

CHORUS

I'm free from the fear of tomorrow,
I'm free from the guilt of the past.
For I've traded my shackles for a glorious song.
I'm free! Praise the Lord! Free at last.
I'm free! Praise the Lord! Free at last.

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MY PRAYER FOR THIS DAY

I want to see Israel marching,
I want to hear the kingdom call!
I want to see Zion's mountain,
I want to see great Babylon fall;
I want to see Jesus reigning,
Upon King David's royal throne,
O, won't that be a glorious sight to see
When Israel comes marching home!