

Passing the Mantle: Walking in the Power of God

Staying Close to God's Presence

Elisha knew that Elijah was about to be taken away by God. As they traveled from Gilgal to Bethel to Jericho to the Jordan, Elijah kept telling Elisha, *"Stay here,"* but Elisha refused to leave him. He was determined to stay close to the man of God, knowing that God's power and blessing were upon him.

This speaks to us today:

- How determined are we to stay close to God's presence?
- Do we allow distractions, busyness, or excuses to pull us away?
- Are we willing to go the extra mile in pursuit of God's power and anointing?

Elisha was persistent—he wanted everything God had for him, and he wasn't going to settle for less.

When Elijah finally asked him, *"What do you want?"* Elisha responded boldly:

"Let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." (2 Kings 2:9)

This wasn't about selfish ambition; it was about wanting to serve God in an even greater capacity. Elisha wanted to carry on the ministry with the same power that Elijah had—but he also knew that this power came from God, not from Elijah.

Are we bold enough to ask God for His power to work through us? Or do we settle for a comfortable Christian life?

God's Confirmation of Elisha's Calling

As they walked and talked, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared, separating them, and Elijah was taken up into heaven in a whirlwind.

Elisha saw it happen—just as Elijah had told him:

"If you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you." (2 Kings 2:10)

Elisha tore his clothes in grief, but then he picked up Elijah's fallen mantle. This symbolized the passing of authority and anointing. But now came the real test:

Would God confirm Elisha's calling?

Elisha walked back to the Jordan River, took the mantle, and struck the water, just as Elijah had done. Then he asked:

"Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" (2 Kings 2:14)

And when he struck the water, it parted—just as it had for Elijah! This was God's confirmation that the same power and presence that was with Elijah was now with Elisha.

Are You Walking in God's Power?

We often ask, "*Where is the God of Elijah?*" But the better question is:

Where are the men and women like Elisha—who are willing to step out in faith and believe God for great things?

- Are you ready to step into the calling God has placed on your life?
- Are you willing to trust Him and walk in His power?
- Have you picked up the mantle He has given you, or are you hesitating?

Just as God used Elisha, He wants to use us—if we are willing to take up the mantle of faith.

Miracles That Confirm God's Presence

After Elisha's calling was confirmed, God began working miracles through him:

1. Healing the waters of Jericho (2 Kings 2:19-22)
 - The people of Jericho came to Elisha, saying their water supply was bad.
 - Elisha threw salt into the spring, and God purified the water.
 - The lesson? God can bring life and healing to what is broken.

What areas of your life need God's healing touch? Just as Elisha trusted God to purify the waters, we must trust God to restore and cleanse what is broken in our lives.

2. The mocking youths and the she-bears (2 Kings 2:23-25)
 - As Elisha traveled to Bethel, a group of young men mocked him, saying, "*Go up, you baldhead!*"
 - They weren't just insulting Elisha—they were mocking God's authority.
 - Elisha pronounced a curse, and two bears came and mauled forty-two of them.

This is a serious warning:

- God takes spiritual leadership seriously.
- Disrespecting or opposing God's work is dangerous.
- God is not mocked (Galatians 6:7).

Do we take God seriously? Do we honor and respect those He has placed in leadership, or do we speak against them carelessly?

Personal Applications from 2 Kings 2

1. Stay close to God's presence.
 - Elisha refused to leave Elijah because he knew God's anointing was upon him.
 - Do you prioritize staying close to God? Or do you let distractions pull you away?
2. Desire God's power for His glory, not your own.
 - Elisha wanted a double portion—not for personal fame, but to serve God effectively.
 - Are you asking God for spiritual gifts and power to serve Him more?
3. Step out in faith and pick up your mantle.
 - Elisha picked up Elijah's mantle and acted in faith, trusting God's power.
 - What has God called you to do that you haven't stepped into yet?
4. Trust God to heal what is broken.
 - Elisha healed Jericho's water, and God can heal the broken areas in our lives too.
 - Where do you need God's restoration today?
5. Honor God and His Word.
 - The young men who mocked Elisha faced judgment because they dishonored God.
 - Do you take God's Word seriously, or do you treat it lightly?

Final Challenge: Are You Ready to Take Up the Mantle?

Elisha didn't hesitate—he picked up the mantle and stepped into the calling God had for him.

God has a calling for your life too.

- Are you willing to stay close to Him and seek His presence?
- Are you bold enough to ask for His power to work through you?
- Are you ready to step out in faith and believe that He will confirm His calling in your life?

God is still the God of Elijah—He hasn't changed. The question is:

Will we be men and women like Elisha, willing to take up the mantle and walk in His power?