

Elisha

"The Faithful"



Elijah went to Elisha and threw his cloak around him. The cloak was a symbol of Elijah's calling to be a prophet of God and continue the work that Elijah had begun.

Elisha asked: "I pray thee; let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me."
II Kings 2:9

Elisha was called by God from the fields to continue the work of Elijah. Elijah seemed like a nomad; Elisha had a family and was a worker in the fields. Elijah lived in caves in the desert, Elisha stayed in the cities.

One day as Elisha was plowing the fields Elijah went to him and threw his cloak over him. Elisha knew he had been blessed, but he had a concern. He ran after Elijah and asked if he could go kiss his father and mother good-bye.

Elijah told him he could. Elisha butchered his oxen and fixed a farewell meal for his family and then left to follow Elijah. Life wasn't any easier for Elisha than it had been for Elijah. Many of the worshippers of Baal had been killed, but Jezebel, the wife of Ahab, was still alive and doing her best to destroy the truth with her son at her side.

Elisha knew that Elijah was doing God's work and he wanted to do right, but he felt helpless. Many times, we can feel helpless too, but we know that God is with us. We just want proof. Elijah sensed this and asked Elisha what he wanted before he left on his mission. Elisha answered that he wanted a double portion of God's spirit. Elijah said God would grant that. He will grant the same to us, and the blessings are always there. We just have to learn to accept them. As Elijah and Elisha were talking a strong wind arose and horses and chariots of fire came down and took Elijah. Elisha took the cloak of Elijah and swung it at the Jordan river and the river divided. Elisha walked through on dry land. Some prophets from Jericho were there to see this miracle. They knew that the Spirit of God was alive in Elisha as it had been in Elijah.

Elisha wanted to do great things for God. God granted Elisha's request. During his lifetime, Elisha did nearly twice as many miracles as Elijah.

When we ask God for something, we need to make sure it is not in a selfish way. And, we need to realize that God

Forgiveness

is not always easy.
At times, it feels more painful
than the wound we suffered,
to forgive the one that
inflicted it. And yet,
there is no peace
without forgiveness.

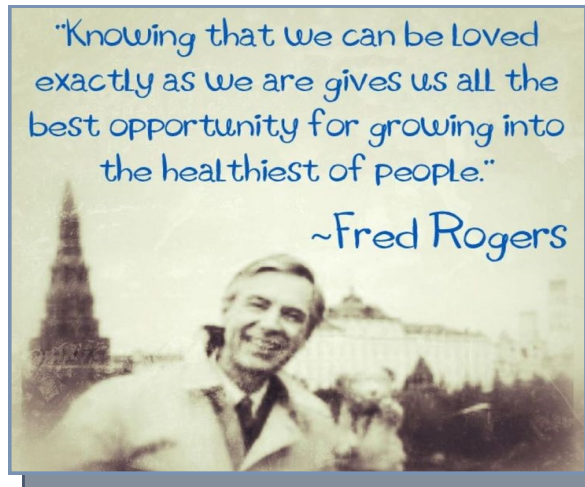
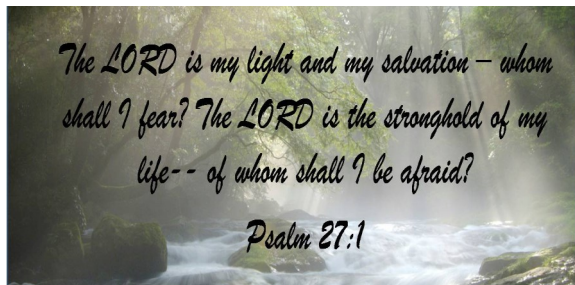
will answer our request, maybe not in the way we ask, but in the way He thinks is best for us. He will never ask us to do more than we can handle with His help. When our motive is to glorify and serve God, He will answer in ways we never could imagine.

Elisha helped the rich and the poor. One day a wife of one of the prophets went to him because her husband had died and she was in debt. The creditor threatened to take her sons as slaves. She told Elisha that all she had was a bottle of oil. He told her to get every container she could find and pour oil into it. When she had finished filling all the containers, the oil stopped flowing and she had enough money to pay her debts.

Another time a rich woman decided to fix a special room for Elisha to stay when he was passing their home. This continued for quite some time. He wanted to do something for the

couple. He found that they had never had a child, so he told her that she would have a child in about a year. The son was born, but then after several years he died and the woman was distraught. She went to find Elisha and he went to their home and asked God to bring the child back to life for them. God worked this miracle through Elisha and many people came to believe in God.

Elisha handled things in many different ways. One time when the king of Aram wanted war with Israel he wanted an ambush set up. Elisha warned the king of Israel about the ambush and the king of Aram was furious. They went and surrounded the city thinking they could capture Elisha. The next morning one of Elisha's servants went out and saw the horses and chariots surrounding the city. He reported it to Elisha and Elisha said "Don't worry about it; there are more on our side than on their side." He asked God to open the eyes of the young servant and he saw the whole mountainside full of horses and chariots of fire to protect Elisha. When the army from the king of Aram attacked Elisha asked God to strike them blind. Then Elisha called out to them and led them into Samaria.



When Elisha had God open their eyes, they knew they were trapped. But Elisha didn't kill them. He fed them and sent them back to their master. They didn't bother Israel any more. Does this story tell us how we should treat our enemy? We are told to overcome evil with love. Elisha did that, but he had God's help. We have God's help also, if we ask for it. We can handle many difficult situations if we ask God to help us rather than trying to do it on our own.

With God's help Elisha healed lepers, provided an antidote for a poisonous stew, and provided water to a thirsty army, just to name a few. When Elisha lay dying, Jehoash, king of Israel, came, and wept over him. Elisha told the king to shoot an arrow out of the window, and strike the ground with the quiver. This would show God's power to help Israel. After this promise, Elisha died. His job was finished on this earth.

Prayer: Lord God of Israel, You don't ask us to do much and yet we seem to think that it is so much at times. Through the death and resurrection of Your Son, all we have to do is accept Christ as our personal Saviour. Help us to be thankful for that wonderful gift and do our best to tell everyone we meet that You are an awesome God, gracious, tender, and just for each one of us. Amen

1. God called Elisha from ploughing the fields. How does he choose you? Do you have free will to accept Him or reject Him?
2. Does God perform miracles for you?
3. Can you explain God's sovereign will and how it affects man's free will?
4. How can we seek God's will for our lives?
5. Explain "Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life."

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