

“THE DOUBLE PORTION”

Text: II Kings 2:9-14

Subject: How To Live With A “Double Portion” Of God’s Spirit Upon Your Life.

Question: What is the anointing of the Holy Spirit?

Answer: It is the free flow of the Holy Spirit operating in the life of the believer, unhindered by an unyielding self life. (Repeat)

(Remember)

◆ The anointing is not **emotion, talent, personality, experience, volume or knowledge.**

(The Lord says in 1 John 2:20)

◆ “But ye have an **unction** from the Holy One.” (v. 20)

◆ “But the **anointing** which ye have received abides in you.” (v. 27)

(Two words describe the anointing)

1. “Uction” (and) 2. “Anointing”

◆ Both words come from the same Greek word, “**charisma**”

◆ The word “**charisma**” means three primary things

1. The endowment of the Holy Spirit
2. The rubbing (or smearing) with oil
3. The furnishing of what is needed.

Question: Is this anointing that important?

Answer: Isaiah 10:27 says: “*The yoke is destroyed because of the anointing.*”

(In other words)

◆ To the degree we cooperate with God in the anointing process..

◆...to that same degree will every yoke in your life be taken away.

(Or simply)

◆ The way we cooperate with God will be the way we enjoy God’s power flowing in and through us.

◆ The degree we cooperate with God will be the same degree God can then manifest Himself through us.

◆ The measure we cooperate in our wills to God’s Will will be the same measure God’s spirit will be active and powerful in each of us.

Question: How many of you want to be an anointed Christian?

Question: How many of you want to live full of the Holy Spirit?

(Our text has a remarkable setting) II Kings 2:1 says:

“*And it came to pass, when the Lord would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.*” (v. 1)

(In other words)

1. It's the closing scene of Elijah's earthly life.
2. His ministry is complete and it's time to say goodbye.
3. God gives us a glimpse of the final earthly day.

Question: How does Elijah spend his final hours?

Answer: He visits three places; Gilgal, Bethel and Jericho

Question: Why does he visit these three?

Answer: Because Elijah has been training young people for the ministry in these locations.

◆ A school in Gilgal!

◆ A school in Bethel!

◆ A school in Jericho!

(Three schools of the prophets, or Bible colleges, or seminary institutions to train young people)

(In other words)

1. Elijah's closing hours on earth will be invested well (encouraging the students).
2. His final hours will be visiting among the young people
3. He will speak words the Bible school students will never forget.

Question: Is Elijah traveling alone?

Answer: No, he has a minister in training, or an intern, or a trainee alongside him.

Question: Who is the trainee?

Answer: It's Elisha (the emerging leader)

Question: What does Elijah tell the trainee?

Answer: In v. 2, "Stay here, I'm going to Bethel."

In v. 4, "Stay here, I'm going to Jericho."

In v. 6, "Stay here, I'm going to Jordan."

Question: How does Elisha respond? (What does the emerging leader do?)

Answer: He responds beautifully.

◆ In v. 2 Elisha says, "I'm not leaving you."

◆ In v. 4 Elisha says, "I'm not leaving you."

◆ In v. 6 Elisha says, "I'm not leaving you."

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Both men travel from Gilgal to Bethel,
- ◆ From Bethel to Jericho and,
- ◆ From Jericho over to the east side of Jordan.

(In Other Words)

- Elijah's departure will happen in his homeland, Tishbe of Gilead, on the east side of Jordan.

(And notice the Cape Canaveral lift off)

- ◆ In v. 7, 50 prophets watch Elijah and Elisha together.
- ◆ In v. 8, Elijah takes his mantle and smites the waters of Jordan (and God parts the water).
- ◆ And in v. 9, the amazing and final act of Elijah.

Question: What does Elijah say?

Answer: In v. 9 - you have it in your hands.

“Elijah said to Elisha, ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken away from you.” (Repeat)

(And God reveals the secret of the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon your life and mine.)

Question: What’s the secret to living as an anointed woman (or man) of God?

Answer: The secret is revealed in three words.

I. Word #1 is “Desire”

Question: How did Elisha, the farm boy respond to Elijah’s offer of “what would you like before I go to heaven?”

Answer: Elisha expresses his desire in v. 9

“I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.”

Question: What does Elisha ask for?

- ◆ He doesn’t ask for an easy road, more toys, or the winning lottery ticket!
- ◆ He doesn’t ask for selfish things! **(Instead)**
- ◆ Elisha prays (or asks) for something that will help him to do God’s will (not his own will).

(In other words)

- His desire is to be a blessing to God, not for God to just bless him!

(Think of it)

- ◆ Elisha had sat at the feet of Elijah.
- ◆ Elisha witnessed what it meant to be a servant of God.
- ◆ Elisha now has a blank check request to ask Elijah’s God for any request whatsoever.

Question: And what is Elisha’s heart’s desire?

Answer: He wants a double portion (or twice as much of God as Elijah had experienced)

(In other words)

- ◆ For 10 years, Elisha never got used to the anointing.
- ◆ For 10 years, Elisha never got familiar with God.
- ◆ For 10 years, Elisha never became satisfied in his hunger for more of God.

Question: Why is this account in your Bible?

Answer: Because God wants us to know something.

- It’s going to take more of God’s anointing to.
 - ...see the hidden places of our hearts changed.
 - ...see our cities experience a great awakening.
 - ...see every prodigal son and daughter, husband and wife, brother and sister return.

...see miracles of healing that will be signs and wonders to unbelievers.
...see the fire of God consume the spirit of lust, greed and anger that is destroying so many.
...see Godly sorrow and deep repentance both personally and corporately

Question: Know what's so beautiful about Elisha's request?

Answer: He got the double portion he was after! Why?

- Because God will open heaven wide open if we desire to do His will His way!

(Remember)

- ◆ Three times Elisha was tested to go no further.
- ◆ Three times Elisha was given opportunity to bow out.
- ◆ Three times Elisha had to make a choice to go back, stand still or go after God will all his heart.

II. Word #2 is "Wisdom"

Question: What did Elisha do in v.12 when Elijah went up to heaven and left his mantle behind?

Answer: Elisha (in v. 12) "*Took hold of his own clothes and rent them in two pieces.*"

(In other words)

- ◆ Elisha sees the mantle (the cloak of Elijah) floating down from the sky.
- ◆ Elisha then pulls off his own cloak and tears it in two and discards it.

Question: Why does Elisha do this (and why does God record it)?

Answer: Because this was the time for a wisdom decision for Elisha.

- ◆ The time to take off and remove his own mantle and receive a mantle with the touch of heaven on it.
- ◆ The time to discard his own dependence and depend on the Lord.
- ◆ The time to separate himself from anything that would hinder his spiritual progress.
- ◆ The time to tear off the old man and put on the new man.

Question: What would the average church-goer do today with Elijah's mantle floating down from the chariot?

Answer: The average church goer would keep their same old cloak on (and just put the new one over the top of the old.)

(In other words)

- ◆ Instead of getting radical with the old carnal habits and secret sins (just cover them over with outward activity).
- ◆ Instead of rending our hearts in two (with a broken spirit of deep repentance) just continue on with business as usual.
- ◆ Instead of having the wisdom to separate from the sins that drain you spiritually, just cover them over enough to hide out of view (from those around you).

Question: But guess what God desires to do?

Answer: He has a mantle for you (for sure).

- ◆ But God has no desire to just cover the old carnal flesh and leave us the same way as we came

in here.

◆ God desires to expose the flesh and have us run to Him and say:

“God, I’ve had it with the same old recurring sin.”

“God, I’ve had it with serving in my own energy.”

“God, I’ve had it with being defeated by sin that you died to conquer in me.”

“God, I’ve had it with one foot in and one foot out.”

“God, I’m taking off the old to make room for the new man.”

Question: Why is this a wisdom decision?

Answer: Because the wise Christian knows that sin drains you of spiritual vitality.

◆ After you waste energy on lust, pride and anger, you waste more energy on guilt, shame and regret. (Double jeopardy)

(God says in Proverbs 28:13)

“He that covers his sin shall not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes their sin shall have mercy.”

(In other words)

- It does no good to confess sin unless we are willing to forsake it as well. (Repeat)

(Remember friend)

1. Calvary only covers what we uncover.
2. Every evil thought is sin in its embryo stage.
3. Sin that is destroyed in our minds will not become a part of our history.
4. You cannot lead an orchestra unless you turn your back on the crowd.
5. Our progress in God will go no further than our obedience takes us.
6. If you lie down with dogs, you’ll rise up with fleas.
7. No clever arrangement of bad eggs ever made a good omelet
8. Moths that investigate burning candles singe their wings for life.
9. Water in the boat causes it to sink.
10. The longer I resist the calling voice of God, the harder it becomes to hear that voice again.
11. The longer I stay where I do not belong, the harder it becomes to exit that place.
12. An enemy in the heart is worse than 10,000 in the field.

(God told Joshua in Joshua 7:13)

“You cannot have my blessing until you remove the sin from among you.”

(It’s either-or - the old cloak or the new cloak!

Question: Why do anointed Christians put off the old man and discard every questionable activity?

Answer: Because the fruit of repentance is obedience and the result of obedience is the power and joy of a clear conscience (that glorifies God).

III. Word #3 is “Faith”

Question: What did Elisha do after Elijah departed?

Answer: Elisha needed to cross back over Jordan alone and go to work for God.

- In v. 13, Elisha has the mantle but he faces the uncrossable Jordan River alone now.

Question: Do you have an impossible Jordan River in front of you?

- In v. 14, Elisha asks the famous question.

“Where is the Lord God of Elijah?”

Question: What does God do?

Answer: God parts the water and lets Elisha cross over.

(Why does God do this and record it?)

1. To show us that the God of the past is the same God of the present
2. To show us that the power of God has not diminished one bit over time.
3. To show us that faith still moves God who moves mountains and parts deep water.
4. To show us that God still provides for those who desire to do His will!
5. To show us that God will make a way where there seems to be no way.

(Notice)

Question: What did Elijah say when he heard Elisha’s one request for a double portion?

Answer: (v. 10) *“And Elijah said, ‘You’ve asked for a hard thing.’”*

(In other words, it’s a “hard thing” for two reasons):

1. It’s hard because Elijah can’t give to Elisha the double portion (only God can do that).
 - Simply, man cannot do for you what God can do for you.
2. It’s hard because it’s going to cost Elisha something to live full of the Holy Spirit every day.
 - There’s no such thing as an anointed lazy couch potato.

Question: What will it cost you to live with a double portion of God’s Spirit?

1. It takes **desire** – desire to move from where you are and go after God with a passion.
2. It takes **wisdom** – wisdom to get radical and remove every besetting sin that impedes your spiritual progress.
3. It takes **faith** – faith to believe in the God of Elijah when you stand beside an uncrossable Jordan River in your life.

What’s the altar call today?

1. You ask God for a double portion of God’s Spirit upon your life.
 - This was Elisha’s request. (That’s **desire**)
2. You forsake every sin that hinders your spiritual progress.
 - Elisha was willing to take off the old cloak. (That’s **wisdom**)
3. You believe God to make a way where there seems to be no way. (That’s **faith**)
 - Elisha saw the Lord part the waters in the present, as He had done in the past.

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