

Pastors conference – Jan 2014 – Session 2 (The Third days' work)

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Father, I thank You for Your provision. All these 33 months You have met our needs. We did not look to man. We only looked to You. You've been faithful. We just thank You for Your faithfulness. O Father, Your Word says, even when we are unfaithful, You are still faithful. We all have come thus far only because of Your faithfulness. Thank You, Father. Another year lies ahead of us. And we believe You would take us through and You would take us through in victory. And I pray, Father, that Your Spirit will work in us. For You are building a house, a house for Your Spirit to dwell in. We are that house. Do Your work, O Father. Remove every guile from us, every uncleanness from us, every lie from us. O Father, that which is unpleasant in Your eyes, Lord Father, I pray You will remove. That Your body on earth would be perfect. Doesn't matter what the world says but Your body would go outside the city. For we want to be where You are. For in Your presence alone, there is fullness of joy. Speak to us, once again. Speak to us, O Lord. Let us not be dull of hearing for the hour is near. For Your Word says - redeem your time for the days are evil. And You have told us to watch and to pray for that day will come upon us unaware. Let none of us be caught in surprise. Let us be keen in our spirit and be prepared and ready. Speak to us. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

John 6:39

³⁹ This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

2 Thessalonians 1:10

¹⁰ when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

Think of that as individuals! When He comes on that day, let each one of us ask ourselves, Will You O Lord, be glorified in me? Will those who believe, admire You in me on that day? That's why we preach this message. Lord, complete Your work in me. He says, on the third day I will be perfected. It is there throughout the Bible. The children of Israel were excited to get out of Egypt. They were excited by the signs and wonders but they did not like the work of perfection at all. They were upset with that word. That same attitude has entered the church. We like signs and wonders. It's God's work. But not all signs and wonders, for Scripture talks about lying signs and wonders too. There are true signs and wonders and there are lying signs and wonders as well. Outwardly, they may look the same but inwardly their effect is different. But the point is, did we partake of the righteousness of God? Let's go back to *Hosea 6*. This not to a church it is to an individual. Healing begins at an individual level. This is speaking to believers, to Christians, to those who knew God.

Hosea 6:1

⁶ Come, and let us return to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal us;

If God has torn us nobody can heal us, only He can. If He has stricken only He can bind. Let me ask you this - the prodigal son left his father's house and for a while he was good. But later we see him in the pig pen, torn and stricken. Who tore him and struck him? It was his father! His father said, Take your inheritance and go, he tore him. If the father had kept him at home and hadn't given him any money, he wouldn't have been torn. God says to us, If you fight Me, I will let you go your way. Until the son said I want to go back, he could not be healed. All the days, weeks, months or years the boy was in the pig pen, the father did nothing to help him. Absolutely nothing! Until the boy came to his senses and said, Let me return to my father's house. As he started walking home that's when the father ran towards him. Healing and restoration begins when a person goes back to God. When he does, he finds God running back towards him. He heals and He binds but He doesn't stop there. He revives and raises us up. That is what astonished the prodigal son. He said, live in my sight. I want to look at verse 3. Even when we come back, God doesn't take our freedom away. We still have to choose.

³ Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.

We still have to desire Him. Sure, we came back and God received us. But do we really want to know Him? Do we want to

pursue the knowledge of God? Do we want to know Him? If so, God says, you won't be walking in shadows. I will be clear to you like the morning. And not just that, My revelation will be clear to you like light; My Spirit will also flow like the former and the latter rain. Please remember, Jesus never does anything on His own. When you run to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit come too. You run to the Father, He heals and binds and you say, I'm going to pursue the Father. Then Jesus is established in your life like light and the Holy Spirit comes upon you like rain. This is the promise God gives. Please remember it is the promise of the third day. There will be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit like never before, upon those who pursue Him. God says, That is My desire. That is what Jesus said, Rivers, not river, rivers of living waters will flow from you. *Luke 16:16*.

Luke 16:16

¹⁶ ***"The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the Kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.***

They are not walking in, they are pressing into it. There is a seizing of it, in another reference it says, in violence. It's not everyone who does it but God knows those who really desire Him. The Kingdom of God is real and will be most real for the last generation because He has reserved the best for the end. I always use this example in the church. In a baton race they have about four or five runners. The first runs with the baton and gives it to the second runner who takes it to the third, and so on till it reaches the last one. But if you observe each team, you will see they always pick their best runners for the first and the last places. God says, I've kept the best for the last. The problem is that we tend to look back and say, I wish I lived in the Apostolic age. But God does not make mistakes, He put us in this age. He told Esther, For a time and a season like this you were called and born. The law and the prophets till John had a ministry. John's ministry was to bring people to Christ. *Isaiah 40:3-4* tells you of John's ministry.

Isaiah 40:3-4

³ ***The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert[a] A highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth;***

This is John's ministry. In *Matthew 17:10-13*,

Matthew 17:10-13

¹⁰ ***And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" ¹¹ Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first[a] and will restore all things. ¹² But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." ¹³ Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.***

On the banks of river Jordan, John's ministry came to an end. He prepared a people for Jesus. The moment he baptized Jesus and He rose from the water, the law and the prophets ended. There was an end of one and the beginning of another. So it is in *Hosea 6:3*, you have to study types in the Bible to see what happens when there is transference of ministry. The Elijah ministry was prophesied both in the book of Isaiah and Malachi. Pastors, when you study Scripture, study carefully. *Malachi 4* speaks about the ministry.

Malachi 4:5-6

⁵ ***Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. ⁶ And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers,***

This is not about Elijah's ministry through John. *Luke 1:17*,

Luke 1:17

¹⁷ ***He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,'***

Not the hearts of the children to the fathers. There is a difference. Their ministries are different. When John came, he was speaking to the Jews who are the fathers, and Jesus and His disciples were the children. 'He will turn the heart of the

fathers towards the children'. With John the Elijah ministry came to an end. We have to go back to the Patriarchs, back to the father, the hearts of the children back to the father. They are two different ministries. Jesus entered into Nazareth and read the prophetic scripture 'The Spirit of the Lord has anointed Me', but if you read what is written in Isaiah, He did not read it completely. He read out a part and stopped. That was about His first coming. The next line in Isaiah was about His second coming so He did not read that. He just shut the Book and said, 'This is fulfilled for your hearing'. God is very careful about how He uses His Word. So too should we be careful about how we study His Word. God is not a man that He should lie. James says, There is no shadow of turning with Him. There is no confusion with Him. Elijah brought a whole set of people to Yahweh on Mount Carmel. On Mount Horeb God met him and said, Go back and anoint Elisha, the son of Shaphat. That is similar to what happened with John the Baptist and Jesus. Those who are called to the third day work, look at what happens to Elisha. *1 Kings 19:19*,

1 Kings 19:19

¹⁹ So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him.

When he went there Elisha was on his father's farm. There are no details given for tickling our ears. He was ploughing with twelve yoke of oxen, he was with the twelfth. That is the number of God's government. God is talking about a generation who will govern with Him. They are not called when they are down and out in the world but when they are doing well in it. After the third year the rain came, the land was wet again, the day that Israel was waiting for. Elisha the son of Shaphat, was ploughing his father's land when this old man came and put his mantle on him and he knew what it meant. He said, *verse 20*,

1 Kings 19:20

²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?"

What we don't see is that there was Elijah, putting his cloak on Elisha and walking away. As he walked away Elisha ran after him saying, Let me say goodbye to my father and mother. But in effect what Elijah was saying is, You don't understand the call on your life. The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable. It is up to you to decide whether you want to take it up. But Elisha understood that. *Luke 14:26*, Jesus says,

Luke 14:26

²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

Elisha understood. In *verse 21*,

1 Kings 19:21

²¹ So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

He did two things. This was his livelihood, his work on earth. It does not say that he went home and said good bye to his parents. Now, look at *Revelation 14:1*,

Revelation 14:1

¹ Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand,.... ³ ..and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. ⁴These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

There are two special things about them. They were redeemed from the earth. Elisha was redeemed from the earth when he slaughtered the oxen, cooked them and walked away. He was redeemed from among men when he had turned his back on his home and walked with Elijah. God says, I will have a set of people who are redeemed from the earth and redeemed

from men. I'm not saying that you should leave everyone and walk away. But you need to make a decision in your heart that you will not let anything or anyone stop you from following Christ.

After that when we see Elisha,

1 Kings 19:21

²¹ So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

He is given only one name. What is his name? Servant of Elijah! No other name. When he reappears in heaven, all the servants will have another name, they will have the name of their Father on their forehead. That's why when he sees Elijah is taken, he cries out 'My Father, My Father,' that's the name he has. We don't have our names. We have been redeemed from men and redeemed from earth, we don't have a name. We are only of His anointing; we serve the Spirit of God as He leads us. How many years went by nobody knows, some theologians say upto 10 years, nothing is known of Elisha. Later somebody will say, 'that man who poured water on Elijah's fire.' That's all that is known about Elisha. Then God tells Elijah, 'time to go', and we see Elisha again. Watch out for the Third days' work.

2 Kings 2:1

¹ And it came to pass, when the LORD was about to take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. ² Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they went down to Bethel... 2Ki:2:12: 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:

It was time for Elijah to go, one ministry was to end and another was to arise. Scripture says in *Hosea 6:3*, follow on, this is the test. Will we follow or not? How far do we need to follow to receive the former and the latter, the double portion together? How far will you follow? Elisha is the first man to receive the former and the latter rain together because he followed on. They were at Gilgal and Elijah asked him to stay there.

Gilgal has an important place in Israel's history. It was their first stop after they crossed Jordan, where the new generation was circumcised. A lot of people get stuck at Gilgal, it becomes a dangerous place. It is where the flesh is circumcised but if you stay in Gilgal you will make the flesh into a king. *1 Samuel 11:15*

1 Samuel 11:15

¹⁵ So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal. There they made sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

Saul represents the flesh. He was crowned at Gilgal. David was anointed in Hebron and crowned in Jerusalem. The flesh is crowned at Gilgal that is where God tore away the kingdom from Saul because he wouldn't listen. Elijah told Elisha, You can stay in Gilgal and have a Gilgal ministry. It will be all about you, your name, your banner, pamphlets and pictures and the name of Jesus Christ will be in small letters. Gilgal is all about you. A lot of people have chosen Gilgal without even realizing the price they pay at the end.

But then Elisha said, ***As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives***, he doesn't just say, 'as your soul lives,' he says, 'as the Lord lives.' What he meant was, I love you, I have served you for ten years but I wasn't serving you, I was serving the God of Israel.

2 Kings 2:

² But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they went down to Bethel. ³ Now the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"

Bethel too has a very important place in Israel's history. To Abraham and Jacob and it meant the house of God. But please remember, read Scripture carefully, it says, The sons of the prophets. Priesthood is passed on from father to son but not the

prophetic office. It is a calling, it is not passed on. There are many sons of prophets ministering today because their fathers started in the ministry. Every ministry in the new Covenant is a prophetic ministry of Jesus Christ. It does not pass on to my son unless God speaks to him personally. I pass it on to whom God calls. There were sons of prophets at Bethel and that is a problem because later on in history, after Solomon, one of his sons decided, I can have a house of God in Bethel too.

1 Kings 12:28

²⁸ *Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!"* ²⁹ *And he set up one in Bethel,*

Where was one of the calves? At Bethel! We thought the calf of gold was only in the wilderness. It was hiding for quite a while and turned up in Bethel. This is the ministry which never tells you to desire Jerusalem or Zion. It says, Be content with prosperity, brother. It is a golden calf.' These are the ministries that are robbing the inheritance of God's people. My inheritance is not Bethel, my inheritance is Jerusalem! Bethel was the House of God. But in *Amos 7:13* that is not what it is called.

Amos 7:13

¹³ *But never again prophesy at Bethel, For it is the king's sanctuary, And it is the royal residence."*

Did you notice it is not a capital 'k'? It is talking about the man of flesh. Bethel is the king's sanctuary, don't prophesy there. It has become a chapel, a house, the church of the king of this world. He asked Elisha to stay in Bethel and he refused. Churches operated by the sons of prophets are guilty of the sin of Jeroboam. Take a look at some of the prominent ministries on TV and you will see that they are sons of prophets. Listen carefully to what they teach you. They teach compromise, you don't need to go to Jerusalem, there is no need for separation, sanctification. Do you know who first preached this message? The Pharaoh preached it to Moses.

When Moses told the Pharaoh, Let My people go on a three day journey to worship God, he said, There is no need to go on a three day journey, you can worship right here. Even the Pharaoh knew, through the devil, that if God's people went on the three day journey they would be perfected. God asks us, Do you want to tarry in Bethel? Those who truly want to follow Me have to follow through. Elijah said, you can stay here if you want to, you can stay put. It is an organized religion where everything is tailored to suit the people. There are hundreds of churches where they give out feedback slips to the congregation as they leave the service. Did you like the songs? Was the service too long? Please give us your feedback! *Revelation 3:14*, This is the only church which is addressed this way. To the others it is written, the church in Ephesus, church in Smyrna, church in Pergamos, church in Thyatira, church in Sardis, church in Philadelphia, but to Laodicea, the church of the Laodiceans.

Revelation 3:14

¹⁴ *"And to the Angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,*

This church belongs to the people, not to God, the church of the Laodiceans! Now do you realize why Jesus stands outside saying, 'Will you let Me in?' When He starts speaking to the churches He is in the midst of them but when He ends with the last church He is standing outside. Do you know what Laodicea means? It means 'the will of the people'. God says this is how it will end. But even as it ends God will have a set of people who are on fire for Him.

So Elijah tells Elisha to stay at Bethel, *2 Kings 2*, but for himself he says, I am going forward. The sons of the prophets say,

2 Kings 2:3

³ *"Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?"*

They did have some prophetic insight! Elisha's response was, Do you think, after walking with him for ten years I wouldn't know this? Be silent! I don't want to hear your comments. They were actually mocking Elisha, Today your master will be taken away. What will you do after that? We have our churches, our Bible colleges, our congregations, but you, O poor man of God, what will happen to you?' He said, 'Be silent! What you don't understand is that I am following the God of Elijah.'

2 Kings 2:4-5

⁴ Then Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they came to Jericho. There too, were the sons of the prophets. ⁵ Now the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?" So he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"

What is Jericho? Jericho was the site of Israel's first victory and there is something God said about it,

Joshua 6:26

²⁶ Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates."

Many people have a Jericho testimony. They say, Brother, the Lord spoke to me in the year 1991; it was a great experience! Did He speak to you today? I thought His name is 'I AM' not 'I WAS'. What is our God's name? His name is 'I AM'. This is what Jesus said, The Spirit of God is like a wind, nobody can shut Him in, He chooses to go where He pleases. If I bend to His will, He will take me along but if I am stubborn, He will pass me by and find somebody else whom He can use.

Look at the history of the churches in the world, the Holy Spirit never stayed with any denomination. The moment they made the Holy Spirit into a doctrine He left them and went to another church. 'I am not a doctrine, I AM a person. You have to experience ME. You have to be led by ME. I am here to lead and not to follow. As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they shall be called the Sons of God'. But people say, 'There is no such person.' They only have a memory of Jericho. But when Elijah said stay, Elisha said, I am moving on and they went together.

Now they had to cross the river of death. Jordan is not like the Red sea which was easy because Moses was there. He just had to lift up the rod, the sea parted and the others had to only walk through. The Jordan was in flood and only the priests carrying the Ark of Testimony were to step into the flooded waters. There was no miracle unfolding before them. The Israel which came out of Egypt were children to whom God said, see and believe. But the children who came out of the desert were mighty men. God said to them, Believe and then you will see. They stepped into the water. Now note this, their hands were not free; they had to keep the testimony of God up, it could not be lowered, but that testimony of God parted the waters when they stepped in. That's why Jordan is a river of death. You have to die to yourself and to all your preconceived ideas of God.

2 Kings 2:7

⁷ And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan.

There stood fifty sons of prophets facing them at a distance. Fifty means Pentecost. God says I will bypass even the Pentecostals and find a group that will follow Me. The signs and wonders of the Pentecostals will cease because they have made My Spirit into doctrines. Another group will arise and go beyond all that, they are of the third day work, those who die to themselves.

Ezekiel saw the river flowing from the threshold, the water came up to the ankle (you are still in control). Measure it! One thousand cubits! Then came another flow of the river, it rose higher (but you are still in control) another thousand cubits. The water rose higher, more than two thousand cubits! For the third day work they could not move, there was a flood. God says, there is another work that is coming. Are you ready for it? That is what happens under the Elisha anointing.

2 Kings 2:8

⁸ Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

Elijah took his mantle. It was the mantle of a man who had died to himself. If you are already dead you will never have a fear of death. The mantle represents the mantle of God upon a man who is dead. Fire meets fire, death meets death and the river parts. The two of them crossed over.

Elijah could cross because he knew where he was going. Elisha, don't you know your master will be taken today? Once you have crossed over, the river will close and your master will be gone, how will you cross back? Jesus says, Will you follow Me to perfect you to the uttermost? He shuts all the doors. Have you crossed over? The waters closed up. Only after he crossed the river did Elijah ask him, What may I do for you? Let me tell you, God will not ask you this question until you have crossed that river. He did not ask this question at Gilgal or at Jericho or at Bethel. God asks only those who have crossed over the river Jordan, What do you want Me to do for you?

John 15:7

⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

We quote this randomly, everyone uses it but it is what Elisha was doing. He stood beside Elijah. I abide in you, your words abide in me. Elijah asked, 'what should I do for you?'

2 Kings 2:9

Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." ¹⁰ So he said, "You have asked a hard thing.

Elisha, this is your clue. On the third day, a double portion generation! Your clue to get that double portion is that you will have to see how I am taken up. You will see in the spiritual realm, not with your physical eyes, you will actually be able to see the Kingdom of God. That's what the double portion does, it opens your eyes.

But the point is, do you believe? This is in the Old Testament. Do you think the New Testament is lesser than the Old Testament? God says, If you see, you will receive. If you don't see, it shall not be so. You will continue with my anointing but you will not receive the double portion. Scripture says it happened.

2 Kings 2:11

¹¹ Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

He saw the armies of the Living God. After that did Elisha continue to see? Did he not say, Gehazi, where did you go? King of Samaria, I hear what you say in your bedroom. This is the double portion anointing. God says it will be poured out upon those who follow through all the way. A time and a season is coming when He is going to do a great work.

2 Kings 2:12

¹² And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces.

Please note that. He took hold of his clothes and he tore it into pieces. Do you know why? A new ministry was beginning. You cannot wear the same old clothes. Do you remember the high priest's clothes? They were very carefully made, with twined linen so they didn't tear. When the high priest died, for the next seven days his son had to wear those garments, he had to be consecrated only in those clothes. Only after seven days could he put on other clothes because they were the garments of the high priest. It was specially made, strong at the neck so that even if it was pulled it wouldn't tear. No matter what age they were, even if he was a high priest for fifty years he had to be careful that he didn't tear the garment. Read Scripture carefully. All instructions were given because he is the high priest of the living God.

Then one day Jesus was arrested and brought before the high priest. He wouldn't open His mouth and defend Himself. The high priest said, In the name of God Almighty I vow You tell me if are the Son of the living God. He had called upon His Father's name so Jesus said, I am. Do you know what the high priest did? Without even thinking, he tore his garments. The Levitical priesthood officially ended and the Melchizedek priesthood began. There was a tearing of garments. That is what Elisha did. Then he picked up the mantle,

2 Kings 2:13

¹³ ***He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴ Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where is the LORD God of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.***

It's interesting to see what he did. What would we do? If I were to tear my garments I would put on the other one. But, no, this is Elijah's mantle, he needed another mantle which has a double portion. 'I didn't ask for this mantle, I asked for a double portion'. He just rolled it up and hit the river Jordan. It does not say where Elijah was. Where is the Lord God of Elijah? Elijah, you did not separate the river, your God did! Your God is my God and He can separate the river for me. That is the point we need to reach. That is what God always does. The God of Abraham told Isaac, I am the God of Abraham and your God. Then He told Jacob, I am the God of your father Abraham, God of your father Isaac and your God. This is the following through with God. When Elisha struck the water it was divided this way and that. God asks us, will you believe? Will we believe? In *Hosea 6:3* God talks about the former and the latter rain.

Hosea 6:3

³ ***Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.***

That was the only desire Elisha had. From that day on his father's farm when Elijah put the mantle on him, he had been following. What have we followed? This is what happened in the river Jordan. Jesus was baptized. He rose again. A different ministry started. He saw the heavens open, the Holy Spirit descended and Jesus began His ministry. The ministry of Jesus is similar to the ministry of Elisha. The man who did the greatest number of miracles in the Old Testament is Elisha and that is a sign of what Jesus will do. Jesus received His baptism in river Jordan as Elisha also did. But Jesus received a different anointing, known in the New Covenant as the resurrection power of Christ. It is different. Those people, even when they are dead they are alive and alive when they are dead. That is the resurrection power of Christ. They don't fear death. Paul says, For me to die or live is the same. I am dead to this world and alive towards God. If I die I go to Him, if I live I will serve Him.

2 Kings 13:21

²¹ ***So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of raiders; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.***

Do you know why that happened? Because Elisha is in Christ Jesus, though physically he was dead! The resurrection power is over him. It is the only such miracle in the Old Testament because Elisha is a type. Doesn't it say that two witnesses will come in the end? They were like dead for three days and then they rose up. God says, Do you know what I am calling you to? Are we satisfied with our little tricks? He says, Do you understand the call of God. This is what *Isaiah 60:1* says.

Isaiah 60:1

¹ ***Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.***

This is about the double portion.

Isaiah 60:14

¹⁴ ***Also the sons of those who afflicted you Shall come bowing to you, And all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet; And they shall call you The City of the LORD, Zion of the Holy One of Israel.***

Those who mocked you, those who afflicted you, how will they come? They will come bowing to you.

2 Kings 2:15

¹⁵ ***Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." And they came to meet him, and bowed to, the ground before him.***

Why? Because the glory has risen on Elisha and God says, the ones who mocked and afflicted you, who said do you know your master is going to be taken up today, they will come and bow before you when they see the double portion.

When you read Scripture chronologically you see God created Eden. To water that garden there was a river. The river then separated into four, Pishon, Gihon, Hiddekel and Euphrates. Do you get the picture? Later Ezekiel saw the river flowing from every side over the temple threshold. And in *Revelation 22:1-2*,

Revelation 22:1-2

¹And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ²In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

The Garden of Eden, Ezekiel's vision and then into the future! But where is it now? Paul said, you are the temple of the Living God. Jesus said, Out of you shall flow rivers of living waters. This is My throne. From My throne shall I flow rivers of living waters. God says, that is what My Holy Spirit wants to do. Wherever it flows it will bring life. That is what it says in *Psalms 1*,

Psalms 1:3

³He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

If you forget to water a potted plant for five days it will dry up. If it didn't rain, the fields in Andhra Pradesh will dry up and you would need to dig bore wells to water them. Then again, there are the trees that grow beside the river. Many believers are like potted plants. One week later they are dry. They have to keep filling them with the Holy Spirit and they sit there for a season, like Israel of Elijah's time. When the skies were shut up, they ran dry. God didn't call us for that. Be planted by His Holy Spirit and you will always bear fruit. The devil will try everything possible to shut you up but he cannot, because you are by the river of the Holy Spirit. How can it be shut? It is the river of life. God asks us, will you allow the river to flow in your life. Elisha desired it. You cannot control this river nor can you cannot direct it. The river directs you. If you read Ezekiel's vision, by the time you measure the four corners, it is beyond imagination. What awaits us in eternity we don't even know! The Holy Spirit will be coming out of our nose and ears and everywhere, everybody will be so filled with the Holy Spirit. Nobody can control it. Scripture says, at the end there will be only God and a people and creation full of God. Nothing else. That is the call of God.

Let us ask ourselves this, Where is my life headed? Where is my ministry headed? What is my desire? Is my desire Christ? Is my desire to exalt Christ? Or it is about me? If it is Gilgal it will be burnt like Ziklag. This isn't about us. The book of Hebrews clearly warns us that in the last days, God will shake everything that can be shaken. Every ministry that is built on your name and your reputation will crash to the ground because we are to receive a Kingdom that cannot be shaken. Everything will come to an end. When the shaking is over only that which is built on the name of Christ, for the glory of Christ, through which He can receive glory, that alone will remain. This is what Peter said, in the last days the Lord will pour out His Spirit. Read what Peter says in Acts chapter 2 and what the prophet Joel says. Peter did not say everything that Joel said because one was for the first day the other was for the last day. They were two different dispensations, one for the beginning and the other for the end. We are the end. Do we believe what God will do in His third day? Jesus said, Go tell that fox, on the first and second day this is what I will do. But on the third day I will be perfected.

Pastors, it doesn't begin with our church, it begins with us. I cannot pass on a desire to my sheep which I don't have. I cannot pass on a revelation to my church which I don't have. I cannot pass on a love for God to my sheep which I don't have. It begins with us. Jesus said, in John 17, I have sanctified Myself for your sake. Do we also sanctify ourselves for our sheep's sake. There are many things which we can do. It may not affect us but we don't do those things for the sake of our sheep.

Let me give you an example. I can go to a cinema hall, watch a movie, come out and not remember a single scene. I may not even remember the name of the movie. Does it affect me? Not at all because I don't watch movies! It doesn't affect me. I don't remember anything. It is like water off a duck's back. But for the sake of my sheep I will not do it. That's what I asked of the Lord, If I see anything that is not from You, please let me forget it. That is what Paul says, all things are permissible but all things are not beneficial. God demands much more from us than He does from the sheep. To whom much is given, much is required. And he who has been forgiven much, loves much.

When people tell me, Pastor, I struggle to love God, I tell them, It is because you haven't yet experienced His forgiveness. We tend to think, I'm not such a bad guy. I actually deserve to be saved! God says, You are just like that Pharisee who said, I fast three times, but look at that fellow! The reason for this attitude is that we don't understand how much God has forgiven us. If we understand how much He has forgiven us we will love much.

So please remember these four things: perfection in love, perfection in faith, perfection in holiness, all connected with perfection in obedience to the will of God. If I do the fourth, God will do the three. That is His promise. Body, soul and spirit. He gives us that promise in Thessalonians. Sanctify you through and through, body soul and spirit. Shall we pray?

Closing Prayer:

O Father we just come to You Lord. Every time we come believing that Your Word, somebody in this hall, one or many oh will grab it, get into their closet and cry out unto You until they have met You face to face. Then the work will begin. True work of God will begin. Oh Father when the third day's work began the people were scared, they were afraid, they stood away from Mount Sinai, as God came in darkness they were terrified. And they told Moses you speak for us but Scripture says Moses went into the darkness to meet with God. To the rest of the world God is shrouded in darkness, but to us God says come into the darkness and behold My face. Therefore dead men still see. I only said you cannot see My face and live, but if you are dead you can see. Father I pray we will have more dead men and women in the flesh who can behold Your glory. Then they will be faithful to that vision. As Paul said to King Agrippa, I met Him on the road to Damascus, He was brighter than ten thousand suns. Till today I have been faithful to that vision. This year Father I pray many, many young and older Pastors will have a real encounter with You and You will give them a vision right from heaven. Oh Father then they will be faithful to that vision. As Paul was, as Joseph was. Oh Father I pray as Your servants help us to be faithful in small things and in big things. The enemy will come against us, with slander, with accusations, with lies, with physical assaults but we will be faithful until death because we behold Your glory. We have seen Your glory, we have seen Your glory. And we will remain faithful till the end. Raise up a generation that will be faithful so God's work on the third day will be done in them. For You said on the first day when the Son of Man comes will He find faith on earth? I pray Lord You will find faith here. As Your servants go, I speak Your peace into their lives, into their homes, into their ministries. May Your presence go before them, may they be led, for You lead us, that is what Your Word says, For as many as are led by the Spirit shall be called the sons of God. Lead us O God. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on Christ Jesus, the Lamb of God standing on mount Zion, keep our eyes fixed on Him. We just praise You, we just worship You, just glorify Your holy name, Thank You Father for in Jesus precious name we pray, Amen.

Benediction:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with each one of us, Amen.