

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Oct 29

### MONDAY

Once, when Elijah and the younger prophet-in-training, Elisha, are traveling together, Elijah instructs Elisha to stay behind while he goes on ahead. Elisha refuses and says that he will go wherever Elijah goes. This happens twice.

**READ: 2 Kings 2:1-4**

Apparently, Elisha is aware that the old prophet Elijah is making plans to go where he cannot follow him. And he is resolved not to allow that, so he makes a commitment to stay. Commitment is a word which has faded from popular use - whether it's commitment to one's spouse, one's employer, or one's God. Many years ago, Palmer Hartsough gave us some great lyrics to help us with our commitment to God:

*I am resolved to follow the Savior, faithful and true each day - heed  
what He saith, do what He willeth, He is the Living Way!*

God bless you as, with great resolve, you commit yourself to the Living Way today.

### TUESDAY

A group of fifty prophets tell Elijah that the Lord will take Elijah from him. Elijah tells them that he knows that. Then the two prophets travel on, to the banks of the Jordan River. While the fifty prophets watch, Elijah strikes the waters with his rolled up cloak. The waters part and they both walk across on dry ground.

**READ: 2 Kings 2:5-8**

Elijah demonstrated by this that his God was the same God whom Moses had followed when he struck the waters with his staff and all Israel crossed the Red Sea on dry ground 800 years previously. He was the same God who has the same power and the same inclination to minister to and thru His people. That is a reminder we need in these last days. We love and serve the same wonderful God, and in the same way He stepped into Elijah's life, He will come into your life and mine.

### WEDNESDAY

Before I leave you, Elijah tells his companion, I will grant you one wish. What is it you would like? Elisha thinks for half-a-second and blurts out, "Give me a double portion of your spirit." That won't be easy, Elijah replies, but it may come to pass.

**READ: 2 Kings 2:9-10**

What would your one wish have been? Maybe a longer life? Or riches for the family? Or happiness for everyone? Or perhaps, world peace? Elisha's reply illuminates his heart: give me a double portion of your spirit. In other words, let me have increased zeal for God, greater opportunities to serve Him, and greater determination to trust Him fully, the same passion for God Elijah had. He was also asking for power in the inner man when it came to the things of God. He was asking God to use him in God's own plans and purposes. That's what I want, too. How about you?

### THURSDAY

Suddenly a chariot of fire from Heaven comes between the two prophets, and Elijah is taken to Heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha turns around and crosses back over the Jordan River in the same way they had come. At the bank of the Jordan, he hits the surface with the rolled-up cloak and the waters part.

**READ: 2 Kings 2:11-14**

By allowing Elisha to do this miracle, God confirms that He has, in fact, given to him a double portion of the spirit which he had asked for previously. God is by His nature, a confirming God. He often confirms things thru events, but the greatest work of confirming comes thru His Word and thru His Spirit. He confirms in our hearts and minds that are His. His Spirit bears witness within, and His Word gives us assurance in writing! Let us rejoice in the blessed assurance we have that Jesus is mine! Oh what a foretaste of glory divine!

### FRIDAY

The fifty prophets from Jericho all see this happen and they presented themselves before Elisha as his servants. Thinking Elijah might be somewhere else, they offer to go look for him. Elisha tells them no, but they go anyway. After three days, they return, only to hear Elisha say, "I told you so!"

**READ: 2 Kings 2:15-18**

When the 50 prophet-wanna-be's continued pleading for Elisha to allow them to search for Elijah, he consented. He did so in order that the authority of his words would be confirmed. The idea of having our actions confirm our faith is thru-out Scripture. These 50 prophets would discover that when Elisha speaks, he speaks the truth. They can test him (as they do here) and see that!

As believers, we say that our God is the God of all comfort; well, when that which robs us of comfort comes trampling into our lives, do we give into that? Or do we put our faith into practice and actually experience the comfort of God? Is it clear to any who are observing me that God is comforting me? It must be so.

### SATURDAY

The citizens of Jericho complain to Elisha about bad drinking water. Elisha throws some salt into the spring (the source of Jericho's water supply) and declares that God will make the water safe for people and productive for planting. *And so it has remained*, the author of 2 Kings tells us, *till this day*.

**READ: 2 Kings 2:19-22**

On a physical level, salt cannot possibly improve drinking water. So the point of this story is that God, thru a straightforward miracle, changed the water to make it safe and useful. There is no other explanation possible. What man could not do, and what salt could not do, God could do! Are you facing some difficulty with seemingly no possible way for a good outcome? Commit that difficulty to the Lord, and let Him take control of it. Does anger have a hold on you? Despite your best efforts, do you find yourself angry again and again? Bring God into the story.