



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

January 6, 2018

More: Asking and Receiving Great Things

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more. —2nd Kings 2:9-12a

Elijah left his earthly life as spectacularly as he lived it. In a flurry of miracles, He put an end to Baal worship and its vile practices, by stopping and restarting Israel's rain, calling fire down from heaven, and killing 400 false prophets. When Israel's evil king sent soldiers to arrest him, he commanded fire from heaven to destroy them. His ministry returned the LORD God of Israel to the prominence He deserved.

Then God took him directly from earth to heaven in a whirlwind. We know this because his successor saw him go, in answer to his bold request for a "double portion" of Elijah's spirit. While the books of 1st & 2nd Kings record seven miracle of Elijah that stopped the advance of idolatry in Israel, they record fourteen miracles that God performed through Elisha to advance the worship of the One True God.

Elisha established a school of prophets to minister God's Word in Israel's Northern Kingdom. He cultivated a group of men devoted to looking to God in faith, believing His Word, obeying His laws, and expecting miracles. Elijah had worked miracles on a grand scale. Elisha's miracles met individual needs, serving the believing community that stood up to the advance of godlessness in their day.

Elisha's day was a lot like ours. A people who once followed the LORD had discarded Him to serve material gods. They exchanged a heart to trust and obey the LORD for hearts that strayed in pursuit of their passions. A thin veneer of civility masked a culture of sexual immorality, self-interest, deceit, and violence. The appearance of godness replaced godness of heart and allowed men and women—especially the leaders—to do whatever they wished, defying God's Law and the good of the nation.

Elisha's ministry of God's Word fought the cancer eating away the Godly influence of God's people. Elisha and the prophets brought faith in Almighty God into the individual lives and homes of Israelites and prolonged the vitality of the nation. By faith, Elisha restored lives, cured diseases, and defeated enemies. God used him to break a siege, avert a famine, cure a man of leprosy, and enable a woman to conceive. He miraculously restored a means of livelihood and cleansed poisoned water. He taught God's people to receive His provision in response to their prayers.

Our day reveals all the pain and evil that Satan worked in Elisha's day. But greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world. The God of Elijah and Elisha works in our lives today, just as He did then. God's voice is still available. His Word still feeds our souls and directs our steps, but now we have His Spirit to guide and enable us to follow.

As it did for Elisha, prayer brings God into the issues of daily life. It enables us to look at life's challenges, big and small, with God in the picture and trust Him to make the difference. Prayer trains us to expect great things from God and see the ways He works, as we watch how He answers our requests. Elisha's life and work, in the wake of his bold prayer, instruct us to lay hold of our great God for the great things He calls us to do as His people—great things He will lead us to as we walk daily by faith in Him.

Make 2019 a year of asking God for more. Ask to receive His love and the confidence that comes with it. Everything comes from Him, including the ability to receive all He has. So much in life overwhelms us. But we take courage. Christ has overcome the world, and He lives in us for the praise of His glory.

Prayer for The New Year

While material riches chain us to this world, spiritual riches set us free. As we live on earth for the kingdom of heaven, we are confident that heaven is at work in and through us. We are God's people. Pray confidently for more of what God has for us in Christ. Here are some things we can ask and receive from God.

- The Holy Spirit's power and control in our lives
- More effective prayer
- A desire to read, understand, and live God's Word
- An allegiance to the truth, both pleasant and unpleasant
- Faith in Christ as His Word reveals Him to be
- Knowledge of God and not just knowledge about Him
- A Spirit-led willingness to prove God's faithfulness by relying on His promises
- The Fruit of the Spirit growing and showing in our lives
- Using our Spiritual gifts to build up the Body of Christ
- Laying hold of divine power to accomplish our divine calling
- Understanding the connection between God's Word and daily Life
- Wisdom: skill to live the Christian Life

Again, ask God to do His work in you, everyone at Northpoint, and in our leaders.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Scott Williams, Tony Chute, Terilyn Brown, Geoff Grant, Taylor Mendoza, and Marti Wiegman.
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Tim East, Steve Flood, Mark Kiker, Mike Russell, and Vinoj Zechariah.
3. **Our Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, Andria Brucks, Jacob Williams, Carolee Jefferson, Amber McEwen, Mark Norland, Corie Saunders, and Teri Vaughn.

Praise Record

Note when and how God answers your prayers. It will help you to see that He really is paying attention.

Date	Request	Date	Answer

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ...

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

–2nd Corinthians 9:8, 10-12