

## LIVING A LIFE OF DOUBLE PORTION: "THE OUTFLOW" — Part II

by Carter Conlon

In the first part of this message based on the Book of Kings, chapter 2, we saw that when Elisha asked Elijah for a double portion, he was not asking for twice the anointing of Elijah. He was asking for the portion that belonged to the first-born son, referred to in the book of Deuteronomy 21:17 as the double portion. For example, if you had ten sons and were leaving them ten dollars each, nine would receive the ten but the first-born son would receive twenty dollars. It would be a double portion. Not as much as the father had, but twice the amount of the others.

In Romans 8:17, the Apostle Paul says very clearly, we are *"Heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ."* So as the Firstborn Son of God, Jesus inherited the double portion from the Father. The full life of the Father dwells in Him, and we are co-inheritors of that life through Jesus Christ. It should therefore be the quest of every Christian, everyone who calls himself by the name of Christ, to say, "God, I want the full life of the Spirit that Jesus purchased for me on Calvary. It is my inheritance, and I want everything you have for me."

### ■ THE JOURNEY: A TYPE OF CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

Elisha had this desire in his heart for a double portion of the spirit that rested on Elijah, but before this could happen, God took both Elijah and Elisha on a journey. First, it was to a place of history; a place of faith and promise called Bethel. Secondly, to a place of quiet and confident worship called Jericho. Thirdly, shortly after Jericho, to a place where Elisha saw Elijah taken away and where Elisha returned in the power of God, to the Jordan. It is an absolute type of Jesus Christ and His work in the life of His disciples. He led them on an identi-

cal journey. First, to a place where they would believe on Him, where they would believe His word and His promises. Secondly, to a place where they would quietly and confidently trust Him. Lastly, He led them to the place where He was taken away into the clouds in the very same manner that Elijah was taken.

### ■ RECEIVING THE DOUBLE PORTION

Elisha returned to cross over the Jordan with the double portion of the same anointing and power of God that had rested on Elijah. And so it is with us. Jesus had clearly said to His disciples, *"And ye are witnesses of these things...behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye...until ye be endued with power from on high"* Luke 24:48-49. They were to be witnesses of Christ in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth. They tarried, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they all received the double portion. They were made co-inheritors of the Firstborn and only begotten Son of God—His inheritance became theirs and, therefore, our inheritance.

### ■ THE ABIDING LIFE OF CHRIST

We see Elisha returning, taking the mantle of Elijah and smiting the Jordan River, and the waters parting. This supernatural parting of the waters symbolizes the impossibility of any human effort in ever accomplishing the work of God. For the church, it's no longer about human effort, but it is now about faith in the promises of God. It's about the abiding life of Jesus Christ made possible through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. If the church of Jesus Christ could get hold of this one truth, it could revolutionize our present-day world. You have the Spirit and life of God

residing in you. It is not by argument or human reasoning that we are commissioned to take the message of the Savior. No! We are called to be a living testimony of the love and life of Christ. His life is to be lived in and through us by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is to be a supernatural life, a powerful life. A life that will touch the very inner core of our generation, beginning in our own homes, and then beyond to the uttermost part of the world.

Scripture tells us that Elisha returned in the spirit and power of Elijah. Elijah was a man who had a tremendous passion for God's honor. His passion and calling was for God's people to turn from their backslidden ways and serve the LORD. Even after fleeing from Jezebel, he said, "I've been jealous for the Lord. I've been jealous, God, for your name. I've been jealous, God, for your people." Now Elisha comes back over the River Jordan and he has this same burden on his heart: this passion for God, this passion for the purposes of God, and this passion for the honor of God.

### ■ OUTFLOW OF THE ABIDING LIFE—FRUIT—JOHN 15:5

Every Christian who has received Christ's life returns with the outflow of the evidence of Christ upon them. I don't believe there are any exceptions to the rule. Where there is an inward working of Christ in the life of the believer, there should also be an outflow of the anointing! If I have Christ living in me, then the outflow of His life has to be an expression of the life of God. Look at the outflow from our God who so loved the world that He gave His only Son. Now look at the outflow from Christ and how He gave His life so that all people may know the Father's love.

## ■ WE NEED TO ASK OURSELVES A QUESTION

We can then ask ourselves this question, "What was the outflow of this touch of God upon Elisha's life? How was it manifested? And what evidence indicates that this was truly God?" This next statement might shock you, but I believe everything Elisha did, we can do, as well. The miracles he did were spectacular, but let us look beyond the spectacular to what God was really doing through him. We have a tendency to get caught up in the spectacular and think we could never do what Elisha did. So, we relegate the anointing to history and hope to understand it one day. Right now, you may be preoccupied in dealing with your own issues, and so you miss the reality that the same Christ in Elisha is also living in you. Hear me clearly on this. It's not so much that you and I are necessarily going to go out and do things that are outwardly spectacular. But, there are certain areas of his ministry that do relate to you and me.

## ■ THE MIND OF CHRIST—1 CORINTHIANS 2:16

In 2 Kings 3:11-18 *"And Jehoshaphat said, the word of the LORD is with him. So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him...And he said, thus saith the LORD, Make this valley full of ditches...And this is but a light thing in the sight of the LORD: he will deliver the Moabites also into your hand."* Elisha comes onto the scene of a people who, because of their ungodly leadership, are in danger of dying of thirst. Elisha speaks the Word of the Lord, and gives direction and the

promise of provision to three leaders who are walking in the flesh. He is now a man who understands the mind of the Spirit. Elisha shows them the plan of God for provision and soon-coming victory. Because he had an intimate knowledge of the ways of God, he was able to give them leadership, and help them through the struggle and dryness in their lives. You and I are capable of doing that. When you abide in Christ, and His Word abides in you, then Christ's mind becomes your mind, and you can be used of God to encourage others to walk in the Spirit and to understand the ways of God.

What was the outflow of double portion in Elisha's life? Looking at his life, is there anything he did that I can't do? If I have this double portion in my life, what is the evidence?

## ■ LOOKING TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS—JAMES 2:15-17

In Chapter 4:1-7, we find Elisha looking after the needs of a widow and her children. You remember the story; creditors were coming to take her sons away because she couldn't pay her bills. The anointing came upon Elisha, giving him wisdom to share God's plan of provision with the widow. You can do that. I can do that. I can help widows with their children in their time of need.

## ■ DEFEATING THE POWER OF DEATH

In Chapter 4:8-37, we find Elisha prophesying blessing to a barren woman, whose house he had stayed in from time to time. Although she had no power to conceive a child, in time, according to the Word of the Lord, she brought forth a son. Some time later the enemy tried to take the boy away from her, but Elisha defeated the power of death, and restored the boy to his mother. In Christ Jesus, we can do this too, as He is the One who destroyed the power of death at Calvary, and now the enemy is a defeated foe (Heb 2:14,15). You have neighbors around you who are barren and have no power to produce a life that brings glory and honor to God. You can give them your testimony of what the Lord Jesus has said and done in your life. As you do this, faith will arise in

their hearts to receive new life from Him. The enemy may try and bring the power of death back into their lives, but in Christ, you have the power to defeat this enemy with simple words of faith from your heart. You don't have to give up your children. You don't have to say your marriage is finished. You don't have to let the devil into your house. Stand and take authority in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who has defeated the power of death. The scripture says that Christ took captivity captive and gave gifts unto men. We are called to wage warfare against the power of darkness.

## ■ HEALING OF DEATH IN THE POT

In Chapter 4:38-41, we find Elisha at Gilgal with the sons of the prophets. There was a famine in the land and they had gathered herbs to put into the pot of food. As they ate they cried out, *"Oh man of God, there is death in the pot."* Elisha cast some meal into the pot, bringing life and healing, so there was no harm in it.

There are people, groups, and even Christians today, whose lack of understanding of God, the scriptures, and His ways, have become like a pot of death! But a man or woman who is filled with the Spirit of God, with tender hands and right motives, can put life back into the pot. Through Christ, you can do that. You may have a Christian friend in college who feels like giving up, or has embraced a wrong concept of God. Maybe they're looking in the mirror instead of looking at who Christ is, and there is death in the pot. If you have a humble spirit and right motives, Christ can use you to bring life and restoration to them. If you have a heart to undergird the church in this spirit of humility, not being lords over God's flock, the Holy Spirit can use you to bring life to others.

## ■ FEEDING THE HUNGRY—JOHN 6:47-51

In Chapter 4:42-44, we find Elisha feeding one hundred hungry people, a fore-runner to the miracle of the loaves and fishes. He had just twenty loaves of barley, and some ears of corn, but said, *"Cause the people to sit down and eat."*

## I BELIEVE EVERYTHING ELISHA DID, WE CAN DO AS WELL.

You don't have to give up your children. You don't have to say your marriage is finished. You don't have to let the devil into your house. Stand and take authority in the name of Jesus Christ.



They were all hungry, they ate and were satisfied. In the same manner, we have the "Bread of Life" dwelling within us, and so are able to feed the hungry people in New York City. Sometimes we think it is not very spectacular but yes, it is. We can feed them and share that Jesus is the Bread of Life, the Only One who can and will satisfy their every need.

#### ■ IN SHOWING MERCY— LUKE 6:35, 36

In Chapter 5:9-10, Naaman, the Syrian, comes to Elisha's door. The Syrians are enemies of Israel, and Naaman is the captain of Syria's host. He has an enormous problem, since he is a leper. He comes to the man of God who has the double portion resting on him. Elisha does not come to the door of his house and say, "Aha, you're an enemy of God

### HOW IS YOUR LIFE IN CHRIST IMPACTING OTHERS?

and you got what you deserve." What does he do? He shows mercy to a persistent enemy. Here he has healing for a man who will go back and lead a host, determined to overthrow Israel. Because you and I have received mercy, we are also able to show mercy to an enemy, even a persistent enemy. You can even be merciful to a man or woman who curses your name until they go to the grave.

#### ■ GREED AND PARTIALITY IN MINISTRY

In Chapter 5:25-27, Elisha had a servant named Gehazi, and in this passage we find Elisha judging greed in his own ministry. Elisha had said to Naaman, the Syrian, "I don't want any money for what I've done," but Gehazi, his ministry associate, had other designs. With deception, he ran after Naaman, received silver and festal garments, and hid them in his house. Elisha did not cover up for Gehazi. But the double portion of anointing resting on him caused him to judge this sin of greed, resulting in Gehazi

becoming leprous. Elisha was not afraid of the opinion of people, as it was more important to him to be honest with God. He was willing to judge his own ministry. You can do that. I can do that.

#### ■ TIME FOR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS— JOHN 4:3, 4

In Chapter 6:1-7, we see Elisha meeting an individual need. One of the sons of the prophets, while felling a log, lost his axe head in the water. He said, "Oh, no, what am I going to do, for it was borrowed?" Some people think great men of God don't have the time for things like this, do they? For example, as you're heading out the door, there is some poor fellow who has a flat tire. You say a hasty, "God be with you. Sorry, but I've got this burden of God, and I'm off to prophesy and pray. It can't wait." But Elisha takes time, stops and retrieves the man's axe head. It's important to God; He even takes note of the sparrow when it falls. Jesus went out of His way through Samaria to minister to a needy soul. Because of His abiding life, you and I can do the same. We may not get the axe head back as dramatically as Elisha did, but we will get it back as God enables.

#### ■ A FAMINE IS BROKEN— 1 SAMUEL. 3:1; JUDGES 21:25

In Chapter 7:1, we find a famine being broken by Elisha prophesying the Word of the Lord. Sometimes we encounter people who are starving to death. They see no hope for the future. They are leaning on their last bit of hope. That's exactly what was happening here, but into the midst comes a man of God, who simply begins to speak forth God's faithfulness and provision. The word God speaks through His prophet comes true and the famine is broken. We have a whole young generation, who are dying for the knowledge of God revealed in Christ. They live in a famine as prophesied in the days of Amos, where the scriptures talk about young people fainting in the streets. You can break the famine. You can stand and speak with authority, declaring that Christ is the One who satisfies every need, the Word of God made flesh, and food indeed for the hungry soul. You can say it with all authority.

#### ■ DIRECTION AND PROTECTION

In Chapter 8:1, we see Elisha giving this vulnerable woman inspired direction for her safety during the seven-year famine the Lord had called for in the land. There was a time of difficulty ahead and this woman, whose son Elisha had restored to life, was to find a place where there was food. You and I can also give direction to the vulnerable, we can point them to the One who provides, protects, and directs—He has provision for them in days of difficulty. Not just physical, but also spiritual provision. *"And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not"* (Isaiah 58:11, KJV).

#### ■ PEOPLE OF COMPASSION— LUKE 19:11

In Chapter 8:12, *"And Hazael said, 'Why weepeth my lord?' And he answered, 'because I know the evil that thou wilt do unto the children of Israel: their strongholds wilt thou set on fire, and their young men wilt thou slay with the sword, and wilt dash their children, and rip up their women with child.'"* Elisha's heart is beginning to increase with sorrow because he sees the suffering that is coming on the disobedient children of Israel. There is a brokenness of heart which comes from the Lord that not everyone has. But those who have His heart understand why He went to the cross, and just how much He cares for a lost and dying generation. How the suffering for eternity is going to be beyond anything the human mind can comprehend. There is a sorrow that comes into the heart that takes away arrogance, and puts every soapbox back where it belongs. It causes those who preach the gospel to plead with the sinner. There is no indifference in their heart that would say, "You had a chance to hear...too bad for you...you go to hell, it's your choice." No, that whole attitude is gone. There is a sorrow for every person created in the image of God who does not know Him. That's the outflow of the compassion of Christ within. We see the masses living in ignorance without God, and feel His mercy for them. You understand that God has an eternity

in heaven for them but they're choosing an eternity in hell. Something happens in your heart. You cannot work this up in the flesh.

### ■ A GODLY INFLUENCE— MATTHEW. 5:14-16

In Chapter 9:1-3, we see Elisha sending word through one of the sons of the prophets, to confirm a king, appointed by God, to bring judgment on the house of Ahab. Elisha is now having an influence in the nation, and is speaking into the lives of the leaders of Israel. Kings and leaders are beginning to care about what he has to say. When you live a Christ-like life, your boss will come to you and ask you for direction. People will come to you when they see the life of Christ in you. They see that everyone else is frothing at the mouth and you are just doing your job. Everyone else is negative but you are positive about the future. Ultimately, they will come to you and ask you for help.

### ■ PROPHECYING FUTURE VICTORIES

In Chapter 13:14-19...When you get into this portion of scripture, although Elisha is at the point of death, he's still prophesying future victories. He says to Joash, the king, "Take this arrow and smash it on the ground." Elisha was angry and said, "You only smashed it three times. You should have done it five, six, seven times, and you would have annihilated Syria. Now you're only going to win three victories." How do you want to die as a Christian? What do you want your last moments to be like? Lying in bed, gasping for air, flailing at people? I've asked God that however I die, it be with faith. I want to have something within me that says to my sons, daughters, and grandchildren, "Children, pick up the arrow of God and smash the enemy. Not just a few times, but many times throughout your lives, standing against the power of darkness. May you see people

released into the glorious liberty of Jesus Christ—and our God will give you the strength and the victory."

The question we should ask ourselves is, "How is my life in Christ impacting others?" I don't like the concept this church age has picked up that we are a hospital for the chronically sick. Have you ever heard that? We just sit around moaning, and watching each other falling apart until the Lord comes. We're called to be a conquering army, a victorious people with the life of Christ within us, making a difference in our generation. That's the call of Christ. It's the double portion. It's His life within mine flowing out to others.

### ■ NO MORE DEFEAT

Do you understand now that everything Elisha did, you can do? He had the Spirit of God upon him, and you and I have the Spirit of God abiding within. We can stand up and proclaim Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever! It's time for the church to look defeat in the eye and say, "No more. I'm not walking under your cloud anymore. I'm not giving heed to your voice anymore. I'm not listening to your theology anymore. I have the life of God in me. And by God's grace and God's grace alone and God's life and God's life alone, He's going to raise me up and my life is going to make a difference in this generation.

*"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place"* (2 Corinthians 2:14, KJV).

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### TIMES SQUARE CHURCH

Times Square Church was founded in 1987 by Pastor David Wilkerson, author of "The Cross and the Switchblade." It is an interdenominational church located in the heart of New York City.

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### WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday	10:00AM	3:00PM	6:00PM
Tuesday	7:00PM	Church Service	
Thursday	7:00PM	Intercessory Prayer	
Friday	7:00PM	Church Service	

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