

Attention: Have you ever stood in a long line and wondered, "Is this really worth the wait?" We've all been there. Waiting in line for concert tickets, a new phone release, a Black Friday sale, or even an amusement park ride. Some people get impatient and leave. Others try to cut the line because they don't think the process applies to them. But those who stay understand something important: if what's at the end is valuable enough, the wait is worth it. The greatest blessings in life are rarely given to people who refuse to wait.

Need: Imagine working for years toward a promotion, only to quit the day before the announcement. That's exactly what Satan wants believers to do. True faith is not for the faint of heart. God's anointed will experience hard times and good times, reaping grand rewards. In many phases, Jesus allows our patience to be tested for our commitment to grow. Faithful people will see doors open in their life that only could have been God. Those who are God's anointed will function from a framework of obedience. You will see great things come to you when you wait on God. Elisha was given three opportunities to quit. Had he stopped at Gilgal, Bethel, or Jericho, he never would have seen the mantle fall and the hope of a double portion. Sometimes the greatest tragedy isn't failing God—it's leaving too soon.

Background: Second Kings 2 records one of the most significant transitions of leadership in the Old Testament. Elijah, Israel's greatest prophet is nearing the end of his earthly ministry. God has already revealed that Elijah will be taken to heaven without experiencing death. For years, Elijah had served as God's courageous spokesman during one of Israel's darkest spiritual seasons. He confronted idolatry, challenged kings, defeated the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, and called the nation back to covenant faithfulness. Yet God's work was not ending with Elijah. He had already chosen Elisha to continue the prophetic ministry (1 Kings 19:16-21).

As Elijah and Elisha travel from Gilgal to Bethel, Jericho, and finally to the Jordan River, Elijah repeatedly tells Elisha to stay behind. Each time Elisha refuses, saying: "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." This journey is a test of commitment. Elisha demonstrates unwavering loyalty and determination to remain with his spiritual mentor until the very end. When they cross the Jordan River on dry ground, Elijah asks one final question: "Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee." (2 Kings 2:9). Elisha's answers, "I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me." Immediately afterward, a chariot and horses of fire separate them, and Elijah is carried into heaven by a whirlwind. Elisha witnesses the event, receives Elijah's mantle, and begins his own prophetic ministry.

Many had been born throughout the course of history to do the Lord's work. The anointing was placed on priests, prophets, and kings to signify that God had chosen them to lead His people in righteousness. Many of them failed and some were taken up to heaven. Then, there came a time when God went silent for a period 400 years. The land of Israel sat in darkness and the Lord spoke to no one for four centuries. Suddenly, the Anointed One was born and His name is Jesus.

1. Make Your Requests Known to God (v. 9).

- a. Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit, responsible power for God's work.
 - i. *"But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more."* (Luke 12:48, NKJV).
 - ii. Elisha wanted to carry on what God had already begun.
 - iii. *"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;"* (Philippians 1:6, NKJV).
- b. Faith is demonstrated: Peter walks on the water to Jesus (**Mat. 14:28**).
- c. Never try to be like someone else but be who Jesus created you to be (**Phil. 4:6**).

2. Picking Up the Mantle (v. 10).

- a. He asked for something hard, but if Elisha remained committed, he would get it.
 - i. *"You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You."* (Isaiah 26:3, NKJV).
- b. When God's anointing is on your life, you will experience and unyielding passion.
 - i. You will engage in spiritual warfare, much like King David.
 - ii. Despite **crushing seasons**, you are given a peace, joy, and strength that does not make sense.
- c. When you face unexpected obstacles, closed doors, or spiritual attacks, it may be because the enemy recognizes the divine purpose on your life.
- d. Expect spiritual testing when you are a leader.

3. God's Plan Continues (v. 11).

- a. As they were talking, a chariot of fire appeared and Elijah was taken up.
- b. True greatness is not for sale but comes from serving God's plan.
 - i. I kept a message in the hole.
 - 1. The pastor would call on us to preach at a spare of the moment.
- c. Simon, the sorcerer wanted to buy this anointing.
 - i. **I've already been to the river and I've been baptized. I've been filled with the Holy Ghost and I feel alright. Ever since I've given up sin, I've been born again.**
 - ii. **You should've come about 25 years ago.** You should've come when I was weak in my faith. You should've come when I entertain my flesh. You should've come when I cared about what people thought about me. You should've come before I started reading that word. You should've come before I learned how to pray. You should've come before I learn how to pray and fast.
 - iii. *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand."* (Psalm 37:23–24, NKJV).
- d. Live like no one can stand in your way of God's plan.