

# New Year's Prayers

*December 31, 2017*

**2 Kings 6:1-7** The company of the prophets said to Elisha, "Look, the place where we meet with you is too small for us. Let us go to the Jordan, where each of us can get a pole; and let us build a place there for us to meet." And he said, "Go." Then one of them said, "Won't you please come with your servants?" "I will," Elisha replied. And he went with them. They went to the Jordan and began to cut down trees. As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron axhead fell into the water. "Oh no, my lord!" he cried out. "It was borrowed!" The man of God asked, "Where did it fall?" When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it there, and made the iron float. "Lift it out," he said. Then the man reached out his hand and took it.

## I. Four Prayers For A New Year

### 1. *Praying For Expansion*

**2 Kings 6:1-4** The company of the prophets said to Elisha, "Look, the place where we meet with you is too small for us. Let us go to the Jordan, where each of us can get a pole; and let us build a place there for us to meet." And he said, "Go." Then one of them said, "Won't you please come with your servants?" "I will," Elisha replied. And he went with them. They went to the Jordan and began to cut down trees.

A. *Growth brings expansion. Expansion brings growth.*

**1 Chronicles 4:10** Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request.

B. *Expansion expects change.*

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (MEV)** But we all, seeing the glory of the Lord with unveiled faces, as in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory by the Spirit of the Lord.

- The place must never override the purpose.

**2 Chronicles 26:7-8** God helped him against the Philistines and against the Arabs who lived in Gur Baal and against the Meunites. The Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah, and his fame spread as far as the border of Egypt, because he had become very powerful.

**2 Chronicles 26:15** In Jerusalem he made devices invented for use on the towers and on the corner defenses so that soldiers could shoot arrows and hurl large stones from the walls. His fame spread far and wide, for he was greatly helped until he became powerful.

**2 Chronicles 26:16** But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the Lord his God, and entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense.

- We must be careful that we worship Who we pray to and not what we pray for.

*C. Expansion is a team sport.*

**Ephesians 4:16** From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

*D. Expansion comes with effort.*

**Proverbs 14:23** All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

## ***2. Praying Through The Unexpected***

**2 Kings 6:5** As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron axhead fell into the water. "Oh no, my lord!" he cried out. "It was borrowed!"

*A. Expect the unexpected.*

**Matthew 5:45** He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

*B. Increase comes with issues.*

**Acts 6:1** In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

## ***3. Praying For The Miraculous***

**2 Kings 6:6** The man of God asked, "Where did it fall?" When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it there, and made the iron float.

*A. God cares about our challenges.*

**Luke 12:6-7** Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

- Challenges are opportunities for miracles.
- Miracles accompany information and not ignorance.

**2 Kings 4:5-6** She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing.

- Preparation precedes blessing.

**Ephesians 3:20-21** Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

*B. God can do amazing things.*

#### **4. Praying For Faith**

**2 Kings 6:7** "Lift it out," he said. Then the man reached out his hand and took it.

*A. There is no faith without action.*

**James 2:20-24** You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

*B. Expansion and action go hand in hand.*