

Why Are You Stopping

2 KINGS 13:14-19

2 Kings 13:14

¹⁴ Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof.

Joash Wanted Blessing & Victory, Not Relationship (Verse 14)

Joash wanted God to move, but he wanted God to move on his own terms, not on God's terms.

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Isaiah 59:1-2 - Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. ² But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden *His* face from you, so that He will not hear.

Do not outsource your relationship with God, your victory from God or your calling by God to others.

**Joash should have wanted to be like Elisha. 1
Corinthians 11:1 - Imitate me, just as I
also *imitate* Christ.**

2 Kings 13:15-19

¹⁵ And Elisha said unto him, Take bow and arrows. And he took unto him bow and arrows. ¹⁶ And he said to the king of Israel, Put thine hand upon the bow. And he put his hand upon it: and Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands.

¹⁷ And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened it. Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the LORD's deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria: for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed them.

2 Kings 13:15-19

¹⁸ And he said, Take the arrows. And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed. ¹⁹ And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice.

Joash Was Half-hearted in His Response to God (Verses 18-19)

Joash gave no thought or care to Elisha's (God's) commands.

Have you noticed how much praying for revival has been going on of late - and how little revival has resulted? I believe the problem is that we have been trying to substitute praying for obeying, and it simply will not work. – A.W. Tozer

Joash was not all in on God's plan; he did not understand that victory only comes through obedience. The arrows showed where Joash's heart truly was.

“The reason why many are still troubled, still seeking, still making little forward progress is because they haven't yet come to the end of themselves. We're still trying to give orders and interfering with God's work within us.” – A.W. Tozer

Too many people give up right before the blessing and victory come.

Psalm 69:9 - ⁹ Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me. (There is a need for zeal because there is a battle.)

Isaiah 62:1 - Because I love Zion, I will not keep still. Because my heart yearns for Jerusalem, I cannot remain silent. I will not stop praying for her until her righteousness shines like the dawn, and her salvation blazes like a burning torch. (NLT)

Isaiah 59:17 - ¹⁷ For He [the Lord] put on righteousness like a coat of armor, and salvation like a helmet on His head; He put on garments of vengeance for clothing and covered Himself with zeal [and great love for His people] as a cloak. (AMP)

God will respond when His people wholeheartedly pray and obey Him.

Joash had no true faith and this led to a missed opportunity for a complete victory.

One's man's decision to not follow God cost a nation, not just a person. Our decisions and our faithfulness and perseverance affect so many others than just ourselves.

Colossians 1:28-29 - ²⁸ So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. ²⁹ That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.

We must daily fight not only for ourselves but for others in our family, church and community. I do not want to just see personal victory and blessings, but I want to see souls saved, lives changed, chains break, hearts set free and the broken restored.



Psalm 44:4-8 - ⁴ You are my King, O God; Command victories for Jacob.

⁵ Through You we will push down our enemies; Through Your name we will trample those who rise up against us.

⁶ For I will not trust in my bow, nor shall my sword save me. ⁷ But You have saved us from our enemies, and have put to shame those who hated us. ⁸ In God we boast all day long, and praise Your name forever. *Selah*

1 John 5:4 - ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

You might not always get what you want, but you always get what you expect. – C.H. Spurgeon