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Pray-Act-Serve

House Of Prayer For All Nations

A Christian, non-profit Non Governmental Organization in the service of GOD and Mankind

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Issue 003 - September 30, 2013

Elisha and The Shunammite



**GOD's promises are indelible;
they cannot be erased...**

Second release.

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ELISHA AND THE SHUNAMMITE

(From a preaching by Pastor Léonard Gonitoua, Bangui, 2007.)



© P.A.S. HOPFAN/Two women worshipping the Lord in Bangui/2012

Brothers and Sisters, the Scriptures in 2 Kings 8:1-6 tell us about the story of the Shunammite whose son was raised from the dead by GOD, through Elisha; that woman never stopped honoring Elisha, whom she viewed as a servant of GOD.

Do good to GOD's servants

2 Kings 4:8-11

The Shunammite had a lot of wealth and asked Elisha to always stay and eat at her place whenever he was passing through the city. "Always", and not "from time to time". She even went as far as building a house for him! Unfortunately nowadays, Christians grow weary of doing good and neglect the servants of GOD.

When the Shunammite saw that her son was dead, she did not panic. On the contrary, she turned to Elisha, the one GOD had used to announce that she would have a son. And GOD glorified Himself by bringing her son back to life.

That woman recognized the value of Elisha and gave him the honor due to him. She built a house for him to give glory to GOD. She did not do it for herself, nor for her parents or her brothers and sisters. Again today, many are those Christians who have plans for themselves, but never for GOD...

Moreover, never did the Shunammite think about exploiting Elisha, which is not the case of some Christians who, instead of serving GOD, rather exploit servants of GOD by asking them for money to solve this or that, or even false problems. People prefer to destroy rather than build.

Psalm 37:27-28; Psalm 37:39

What GOD does for His children, He does it for ever. Just like He did for that woman, the Shunammite. In the Book of 2 Kings 8:1, GOD sent the prophet Elisha to that woman to warn her that there would be a famine in the city where she was living and that she should therefore leave the place; and she did it, which allowed her not to die out of hunger.

Should that woman have criticized Elisha in the past, she would not have been warned by GOD. “*Lè ti Nzapa a yéké na ndo ti ala so si a sala kusala ti Lo na bè oko.*” (“GOD’s eyes are on those who serve Him with a sincere heart.”) Because the Shunammite had honored Elisha and thus served GOD, the Lord watched over her and her family.



It is always useful to ask oneself what GOD thinks about us, what good have we done today, and how many times. GOD saved that woman from famine because of her heart.

GOD always answers His children’s prayers!

2 Kings 4:12-17; 2 Kings 4:18-37

Our GOD delivers from danger. He knew the situation of that woman better than Elisha did, and He answered her prayer. Indeed, when Elisha asked the Shunammite what she wanted him to ask for her to GOD, she asked GOD’s protection for her and her family. And GOD did answer her prayer from that very moment, for ever, not for one day. All what Elisha had told that woman came true. When she left the city where the famine was about to come, she lost all her possessions at the same time. But “*lako bon a ngba na maboko ti Nzapa apè!*” (“GOD is never indebted to someone!”) At the end of the famine, when she returned to her city, she was able to recover all her possessions!

Do not block GOD’s blessings by criticizing His servants!

2 Kings 5:1-27; 2 Kings 8:1-6

In 2 Kings 5, the Bible tells us how Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, lied to the latter whereas he had gone to extort money from Naaman based on a lie. As a result of that action, he got leprosy. Later in chapter 8 from the same Book, Gehazi, who had acknowledged his faults before Elisha and did not bear a grudge against him, said good

things about him to the king. Because of Gehazi's words, his testimony, the king ordered that the Shunammite be given back all the possessions that she had lost.

Today, people very rarely acknowledge their mistakes, and rather hate those who reprove them, even if those reproaches are well-founded. Besides, Christians block GOD's blessings when they refuse to say positive things about others when they have the opportunity to do so, especially about men/women of GOD. Indeed, what would have happened if Gehazi, having borne a grudge against Elisha because the latter had cursed him, had said bad things about his master to the king? The king would undoubtedly not have instructed that the Shunammite be given back her possessions...

One must trust GOD, no matter what the situations are!



2 Kings 8:7-9

When one walks with GOD, he/she can be assured of having victory. One should not rely on appearances but trust GOD! "*Dongo tère a yéké fa mon.*" ("By acting with haste, impatience, you may die.")

When we read 2 Kings 8:7-9, we learn that the king of Syria, who did not know the GOD of Israel but had his own gods, nevertheless

turned to the Great GOD of Elisha when he got sick. He chose to ask GOD's will about his situation, through Elisha, rather than asking mortals. Moreover, he sent Elisha 40 camels loaded with gifts, to seek GOD's will. Those were not voluntary offerings but gifts for GOD to reveal him his fate.

Unfortunately, we can notice that many are those Christians who, when they are sick, would prefer to listen to doctors, witch-doctors, Marabouts, psychics, fortune tellers, horoscope or to do similar practices, rather than turning to GOD. To secure their safety and security, they do what GOD does not want them to do. And yet, even if the doctor cures, only GOD heals...

How about you, my brother, my sister? Who is your keeper? The Sambo Pharmacy (name of a pharmacy in Bangui, CAR)? Professor X? The local witch-doctor?

Do not precipitate GOD's will!

**2 Kings 8:7-15; 1 Kings
19:15**

In the same Book of 2 Kings 8:7-15, Hazael killed the king because Elisha had revealed to him that he would be king in his place. But this was not yet the time that GOD had set to end the days of the king of Syria. Today, when GOD reveals something to us, we are tempted to precipitate the fulfillment of that revelation, of that promise!

In 1 Kings 19:15, we discover that before Elisha, GOD had already revealed to Elijah that Hazael would be king of Israel... Even if Hazael had not killed the king, he would still have become king because that was GOD's decision.

Hazael should not have killed the king.

When GOD makes a promise, it happens in GOD's time. When one puts the pressure to get those promises, he/she is doomed to fail or to die... Do not be like Hazael!

My brother, my sister, when reading the story of Elisha, remember that this servant of GOD had cried before Hazael as he was thinking about the evil things that the latter was about to do. Maybe today, your behavior makes GOD cry. There are some people who cannot eat their meal without their glass of Whiskey, but they do not care if the Holy Spirit is missing in their lives. Don't be like them. Rather, try to please GOD and to give Him joy through your daily behavior.

Be blessed in Christ! ●

(From a preaching by Pastor Léonard Gonitoua, Bangui, 2007.)





What I have retained from this message:

THE DAILY BREAD is a publication of **“Pray-Act-Serve, House Of Prayer For All Nations” (P.A.S. HOPFAN)**, which is a Christian, non-profit Non Governmental Organization based in Bangui, Central African Republic. This Christian apolitical organization has three main objectives: To **Pray**, so that GOD’s will for every human being be done; To **Act**, as GOD’s tool to advance His work, including for mankind’s salvation and success on earth; To **Serve** GOD and mankind based on the example of our role model, Jesus Christ.

THE DAILY BREAD

is issued once every three months with a view to sharing with its readers the many and diverse messages that we can find in the Bible, the Word of GOD.



To receive this publication free of charge by email, write to info@pas-hopfan.org or fill in the registration form from our website www.pas-hopfan.org. The editorial staff of **THE DAILY BREAD** will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

In the meantime, remain in GOD’s Word, the daily Bread that we all need to live a life in abundance, as planned by GOD, and to go through the trials and obstacles that we face at the same time as we move forward.

In the Bible (the New International Version), GOD tells us the following about His Word, among others:

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” (Matthew 24:35)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)

“The Word became flesh.” (John 1:14)

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” (Colossians 3:16)

“How sweet are your words to my taste.” (Psalm 119:103)

“The word of our God stands for ever.” (Isaiah 40:8)

“Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)

“The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:17)

“The word of God, which is at work in you who believe.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

“The word of God lives in you.” (1 John 2:14)

“He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.” (Revelation 19:13)

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” (Psalm 119:105)



This publication cannot be sold.

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