



October 2021

Dear Partner,

Don't you just love this theme for 2021, "*What shall I do for thee?*" God wants to do so much for us, Partner, and all we've got to do is ask and have childlike faith. We've got a good Father Who loves us. He wants to see us grow and fulfill our destiny in this life. But to do that, we've got to trust Him and act on that trust by opening up and telling Him what we desire. Whether it's in a spiritual area, a physical area, or a financial area, we must realize that God cares about every area of our lives, and we only hurt ourselves if we choose to doubt that.

Partner, I know that it seems too easy to simply ask, but that is exactly what God wants you to do when you pray. Never let anyone tell you that this is not true! In one way or another, I see our theme "*What shall I do for thee?*" all over the Word of God. In my previous letters, I've been bringing you to different scenes in the Bible that illustrate the theme, and today I'm going to bring you to yet another scene where this question is recorded. This month I want to focus on the great Old Testament prophet Elijah and the man who wanted to continue his work—a man named Elisha.

Elijah was a great prophet, but by the time we get to 2 Kings 2, we see that Elijah is at the end of his earthly ministry—the man knew his life on earth was done. He also knew that he would not die but *be taken away* to Heaven. That's right, he was going to be picked up and flown right off this planet!

Now, Elisha had seen the miracles in Elijah's prophetic ministry. He'd heard the words from God through Elijah. He'd felt the anointing that was on Elijah's life. He saw and heard it all firsthand. Even so, can you imagine what it must have been like to know that your mentor was literally about to be taken off the planet? Most people would doubt it no matter how many miracles they'd seen. But not Elisha. He listened.

Second Kings 2:9 says, "...*Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask **what I shall do for thee**, before I be taken away from thee.*" Now, that is our theme again! Ask and you receive—we are told throughout the Word that asking is important. When Elijah posed *this* question, Elisha didn't waste any time answering. The remainder of verse 9 says, "*And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.*" Again, notice there is an immediate answer. Why? Because Elisha knew what he *wanted*—his desire was in his heart, and so it flowed quickly from his lips. The beginning of verse 10 gives us Elijah's unusual response: "*Thou hast asked a hard thing...*" then he gave Elisha the condition to his request, and said, "*nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.*"

Double Portions May Require Double Work, Double Responsibility, and Double Anointing ***Greater Power Doesn't Make Your Life Easier, It Makes It More Effective***

Elisha was a man who knew what he wanted—he wanted Elijah's ministry to continue through him and be more powerful than it ever was. Why did Elijah tell Elisha that he asked a hard thing? You'd think it would be easier for Elisha to continue God's work if he had *double* of what Elijah had, right? Wrong!

My first point today is this: **Double portions don't equal double the ease—they just may require double the work, double the responsibility, and double the anointing.** Never be afraid of double. Partner, greater effectiveness in your life will require all the anointing, responsibility, and work that is necessary. Remember,

God's plans will always require you to increase—you can't stay the same and get greater results. God will stretch you. If you want more, more will be required. But, I promise, He will fill you up so that you can do everything He wants you to do.

Elisha may not have been thinking of the costs of being even higher than Elijah's level, and maybe that's why Elijah felt the need to tell him that it wouldn't be easy. Sometimes the high places you dream about look easy, but when you actually walk there, you will see things firsthand that you never even thought about! Elijah had already walked the road of a great prophet. He knew what it took. This was a man with experience talking. Now, I believe that nothing is more rewarding and fulfilling than following God's plan and desiring big things, but never think that God's best is "easy." The devil fights. Circumstances crop up. We are made to be more than conquerors, and that's because we're going to have things that need to be conquered! Living out God's best for your life is an adventure and a joy, but it's not without effort and it doesn't make your life easier. More often than not, it makes your life more effective, both for your personal life and for the kingdom of God, too.

Next, I also want you to notice that Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's "spirit." In other words, Elisha recognized the divine Holy Spirit that flowed in Elijah's life. He knew that it was the source of Elijah's gifting as a prophet. Elisha didn't ask for Elijah's personality or charisma or whatever...he was interested in the spirit of God that dwelled within him. Glory! The Holy Spirit is what helped Elijah in his ministry. What he couldn't do alone he was able to do with the Holy Spirit. While it still wasn't easy to be that level of prophet, that double portion definitely made him more effective at getting God's words out and God's work done.

You are a conduit of God's Spirit, but only to the degree that you draw close to Him, have faith in His words, obey Him, and do what He's called you to do. It's hard to flow in the Spirit of God if you don't attend to the Holy Spirit within you—you cannot give what you don't receive. So, when you read the Word, confess the Word over your life, and spend time in prayer, you are stoking the gift of God within you.

If you want to be effective in God's plan for your life, you must give great attention to the Holy Spirit that dwells within you. That's something *you* do. Never forget that it is *you* who stirs up the gift of God in *your* own life. Your passion should be focused on the Spirit within you that enables you to do the work rather than on the actual work itself—God must come first. Some people like doing the work of God even more than they love God Himself. They like how it makes them feel to lead. Don't fall into that trap. You'll burn out if you do. Set your priority to love God more than you love the work, and then guess what? Your work will be blessed and everything will be easier to handle. It won't be without effort and it'll always require faith, but His Spirit will give you the strength, grace, and energy to complete your destiny and reach your destination without burning out.

Be Present—There's Power When the Holy Spirit Touches Down

Be in the Spot Where Divine Energy Flows and Lead Others

Why did Elijah tell Elisha he had to see him taken to Heaven in order to get a double portion? I believe it's because Elijah knew that if Elisha wanted something so divine, he'd need to be in the presence of something divine. For the transference of that kind of power, he'd have to be present when the power touched down to pick Elijah up. Where the Spirit is, there is power.

Much later in time, when Jesus' earthly ministry was ending and He was about to ascend to Heaven, He knew His disciples needed something divine in order to be effective in continuing His ministry on earth. Remember, both Elisha and Jesus wanted God's work on this earth to continue. All of this is about getting results. So, what did Jesus do? He told the disciples to go and wait after He rose because the Holy Spirit was coming.

Now, Jesus had given them the great commission to go into all the world and preach the Gospel—but they were scared and hiding. They lacked power and boldness to continue the work. How did they go up another level and become the powerful, bold, and anointed disciples we read about in the Word? The Holy Spirit! But, again, in order to receive the Holy Spirit, they had to be *present* when He came down. That's why Jesus told them to gather and wait. That's why they were praying in the Upper Room. Like Elisha, they had to be in the spot where the divine power of the Holy Spirit touched down...only this time, the Holy Spirit had come to stay and make Himself available to ALL who believe. Glory!

After the Holy Spirit touched down in the Upper Room, what happened? Fear left. Boldness came! Power came! The miracle of speaking in other tongues began. Although they were timid when they went into that Upper Room, they came out boldly preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ in other languages all throughout that city. They became powerhouse witnesses for Christ.

So, what was the purpose of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of Elisha? The purpose was to get results for God—to continue the ministry of God on this earth. What was the purpose of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the

disciples? The purpose was to do the same thing: to get results for God—to continue His ministry on this earth. Partner, God has the same ministry for you and me today.

We are called to be effective in communicating God's message to people. What do we need to do that? We need to make sure we are in the presence of the Holy Spirit on a regular basis. We need to be filled to overflowing and receive His divine energy so that we can complete God's vision of helping people on this earth.

My second point is this: **What we've been given through the work of Jesus, we are duty-bound to freely give to others. We lead by example. We lead by words. We lead by the Spirit of God that is within us, flowing out of us to others daily.** I want you to understand that this is all about results—in your life, in your family, in your community, and in this world. This is why we preach. This is why we lay hands on people to be healed. This is why we teach the principles of God that lead to prosperity in every area of life. Elisha was interested in continuing the work. The disciples were interested in continuing the work. We should be interested in continuing the work, too.

Partner, the Holy Spirit took Elisha to the next level. The Holy Spirit took the disciples to the next level. The Holy Spirit will take you to the next level too, if you'll let Him. If you want to be more effective in God's plan for your life, get into the presence of the Holy Spirit. Fellowship with Him when you wake up, drive to work, or any time you can throughout your day. Never be afraid of asking God for more. What is in your heart? Open up and ask Him for the things you want. Be willing to take double responsibility and double work because you were made to increase, not decrease. You've got the Holy Spirit within you to help you be exactly who God created you to be—as well as to have and to do *everything* He's put on your heart. You were made to be blessed in every way and *show* others what a God-follower really looks like.

Listen to God's Divine Voice and Perform His Divine Will ***People Are Curious—Show Them Something Good!***

Partner, you may be the only image of Jesus that some people ever really see. Oh, they may see a picture, but people need to see what Jesus living through a person like *you* looks like. There's only one you and there's only one me. There are some people you can reach that I can't, and vice versa. We are all important in God's plan. We're all different on purpose for His purpose, but we all should be in perfect unison in this: We should be Jesus' hands and feet in this earth and have our ears tuned to the Holy Spirit Who knows how to lead and guide us in all truth.

My third point today is this: **We must be listening to the divine voice so we can faithfully perform His divine will.** Our ears must be tuned to hear His still, small voice leading us and not clogged up with the static of this world. Partner, this is so vitally important in our lives as Christians. Voices are out there every day trying to fill our ears, but we must listen more closely to God's voice. Don't let the distractions drown out His still, small voice within your heart.

God's will must be done. It's why Jesus only said what His Father told Him to say and only did what His Father told Him to do (John 5:19; 12:49-50). It's why Ephesians 5:1 encourages us to "*Be ye therefore followers (imitators) of God, as dear children.*" It's very important that we are listening to the Holy Spirit every day of our lives. The reason? Again, we may be the **ONLY** image of Jesus someone sees—remember that Christ lives in us through the power of the Holy Spirit, so where we go, God goes. We are a part of His plan. We work together to help others find hope, salvation, and freedom.

Now, it's a natural world. The natural man is governed solely by his senses—which is why it's good to show people what living for God looks like and not just talk. Partner, I don't know about you, but I've noticed people like to look at what you have! They like to see what your life is like. People are curious. So, we, as the body of Christ, should show them something good, don't you think?

I want everyone to see God in everything I have—I call it "giving God glory in everything." You see, I'm not ashamed of His blessings on my life, whether they are spiritual, physical, financial, or in any other area. It's not enough to just tell people about the Lord, you've got to show them what affect the Lord has had on your life. You do that daily—in the way you handle the little things and the big things. You'd be surprised how much of a witness you can be in the everyday little things.

If God and the principles of His Word have helped you, show it. People need to see what it looks like to be joyful, at peace, merciful, and wise. They need to see what it means to be blessed by God financially as well. They need to see what it looks like to be as wise as a serpent but harmless as a dove. God's will must be performed on this earth, and it takes people like you and me listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit within us every day to do it. We must have our ears tuned to His Spirit, not clogged up with the static-talking of a fallen world.

This is not hard. Attend to the Holy Spirit in the morning, sow the Word in your heart, and talk to the Lord throughout the day. Then, when you can, be quiet so you can hear Him—pay attention to the promptings of your heart. When you are out and about, let the Holy Spirit in you flow out of you. Don't keep your light hidden. Let your personality shine. You aren't a carbon copy of anybody. You are a child of God and the effect of the Holy Spirit on your life is a special blend of Him and you, and it's something to see—so show that! Don't be afraid to let your light shine. With every beam, you are pointing people to the One Who gave you that light in the first place.

Crave the Best Gifts and Give ALL the Glory to God

Continue God's Work Knowing That Jesus Is Coming—Like Elijah, We're Going Up!

You never know what the Holy Spirit will do through you. You never know who you are going to encounter in your day. You don't know what situations will arise in your day, not only in your own life but also in the lives of others you meet along the way. People need different things at different times. Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 4:14, *"Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."* That brings me to point four of this letter: **Neglect not the gift that is in thee.** Partner, people need what you've got!

I like what 1 Corinthians 12:31 says: *"But covet earnestly the best gifts..."* Now, which ones are those? Which ones are the best? I'll tell you: The best gifts are the ones that are needed at the time. Again, you never know what the Holy Spirit will do through you! It's best to desire and crave the giftings of the Holy Spirit. Elisha did. The disciples did, too. Only those who desired and obeyed Jesus' words to wait in one place got that first dose of the baptism of fire in the Upper Room. They flowed in the gifts and God used them to touch others around them—He's still using them to touch us today.

Partner, desire for spiritual exaltation is noble, pure, and right if you always give God glory for the gifts. Again, the only Jesus some may ever see is the Jesus in you or the Jesus in me. Elisha was about ready to be promoted to the office of the prophet, but he may never have walked in that calling if he hadn't desired the double portion. He had to ask for it and seek it out by meeting the condition of Elijah. Desiring more of God is good! Asking for what He's got is good!

Every man's work must continue. Elijah was called up and Elisha was called out to fulfill the work that God had called *both* of them to do. God will have His way no matter what the devil tries to do. God's work will be finished on this earth. Anyone called to preach the Word or even just let their light shine as a beacon to others is part of this work. The work is to go ye into all the world and preach this Gospel (Mark 16:15)—it's Good News and people need to hear it!

My last point today is this: **God must be glorified in the perfection of His sons and daughters.** You are not perfect in the flesh, but you are perfect through the blood of Jesus. You were washed white as snow in His redemptive blood, given the Holy Spirit to empower you, and the Word to light your way and guide your steps. You've got what it takes!

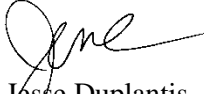
The fivefold ministry and the job of the Church is to ready the saints for eternity and prepare people for Christ's return. One day, the body of Christ is going to depart this place we call earth (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). This is a promise of God, Partner. We are going! That's why we, as the body of Christ, must edify, console, convert, and strengthen others—we want as many people saved as possible, and as many Christians on the right path as possible, too. We want results because God cares about salvaging people from the brokenness of this world and from the plan of the enemy to destroy lives.

Sharing God is what I do every day of my life. Flowing in the Holy Spirit is my habit. I want it to be yours too—and to a greater degree than ever before—even a double portion. Partner, never let anyone go to hell if you can stop it by sharing the Word of God and the story of how your own life was changed. Don't let them miss Heaven because you were too distracted to let your light shine. Be careful to always keep watch over yourself so that no glory that belongs to God is desired by you. Remember, again, it is God that must be glorified. He will not share His glory with anyone. We praise Him, we serve Him, and we get the benefits of being His children—but He is the One entitled to ALL the glory.

When people give me compliments, I always say, "To God be the glory" or "God is gracious." Why? Because I know that the best part of me that they must see is Jesus! He's the reason I'm smiling, and He's the reason why I'm passing on something good. I believe it's important to think like that and to always remember that no matter what gift God gives us, no matter how powerfully we flow in His Holy Spirit, He is the reason and He should get all the glory. All of it!

Partner, I hope you enjoyed this teaching today. I must close now, but before I do, I want to thank you for your faithful financial support to this ministry. We have never had a financial deficit. Do you know why? Because I trust you, you trust me, and we both trust God! This has always been a faith ministry, and it always will be as long as I'm the head of it. We serve God and believe Him, and whatever He wants, that's where we place our efforts. As you sow your seed today, remember the 100-fold harvest. It belongs to you. Believe it, receive it, and make no excuse for it to others. When it comes, just say, "To God be the glory!" or "God is gracious!" like I do. Take no credit for what God does, and point everyone who sees your blessings to the reason behind it all—Jesus! Cathy and I love and appreciate you, Partner, and we're praying for the best gifts to always flow through you. Until next time, keep the faith!

Love You,



Jesse Duplantis

P.S. In appreciation for your October Partnership of \$50 or more, I can hardly wait to send you for the first time *A Merry Heart Doeth Good Like a Medicine, Volume 8*, available on DVD, CD, or both formats. And for your Partnership of any amount, it's available to you on CD. You'll experience laughter like medicine in the latest volume from my Merry Heart series. Simply go online to JDM.org and click on "Donate," or check the enclosure and return it to us in the envelope provided. Get ready to be filled with the healing power of JOY!

***Glorious 2021 POSTPONED:** Due to Hurricane Ida Recovery, Glorious Women's Conference is **POSTPONED** to **March 25-26, 2022**. Please make note of the new dates and spread the word.



The DOUBLE Portion

“What Shall
I Do For Thee?”
2 KINGS 4:2

October 2021

Partner Letter Bible Study Notes

The Double Portion

1st Week October 2021 Bible Study Notes

Open Bible Study in prayer (led by the group leader or someone they choose).

In one way or another, we can see our theme “*What shall I do for thee?*” all over the Word of God.

- God wants to do so much for us, and all we’ve got to do is ask and have childlike faith.

Whether it’s in a spiritual area, a physical area, or a financial area, we must realize that God cares about every area of our lives.

- That seems too easy to simply ask, but that is exactly what God wants when we pray.

In our Bible Studies this year, we’ve seen different scenes in the Bible that illustrate our theme.

- This month we will see another scene in our Bible Study titled: “The Double Portion.”
- We will focus on the great Old Testament prophet Elijah and the man who wanted to continue his work—a man named Elisha.

*Instruct the group to turn to 2 Kings 2.

Elijah was a great prophet, but by the time we get to 2 Kings 2, we see that Elijah is at the end of his earthly ministry. He knew that his life on earth was done.

- He also knew that he would not die but *be taken away* to Heaven.
- That’s right, he was going to be picked up and flown right off this planet!

Now, Elisha had seen the miracles in Elijah’s prophetic ministry.

- He’d heard the words from God through Elijah.
- He’d felt the anointing that was on Elijah’s life. He saw and heard it all firsthand.

Even so, can you imagine what it must have been like to know that your mentor was literally about to be taken off the planet?

- Most people would doubt it no matter how many miracles they’d seen.
- But not Elisha. He listened.

*Invite someone in the group to read the first portion of 2 King 2:9 KJV:

“And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee.”

Now, that is our theme again! We are told throughout the Word that asking is important.

- When Elijah posed *this* question, Elisha didn’t waste any time answering.

*Invite someone in the group to read the second portion of 2 King 2:9 KJV:

‘And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.’

Again, notice there is an immediate answer because Elisha knew what he wanted.

- His desire was in his heart, and so it flowed quickly from his lips.

Verse 10 gives us Elijah’s unusual response.

*Invite someone in the group to read of 2 King 2:10 KJV:

“And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.”

Elisha was a man who knew what he wanted.

- He wanted Elijah’s ministry to continue through him and be more powerful than it ever was.

*Group Discussion: Why did Elijah tell Elisha that he asked a hard thing?

You’d think it would be easier for Elisha to continue Elijah’s work with a *double* of what he had.

- Most of us would think that, but according to Elijah, we would be wrong.

The first point in this month’s Bible Study is: Double portions don’t equal double the ease—they just may require double the work, double the responsibility, and double the anointing.

- Never be afraid of double in your life.
- Greater effectiveness will require all the anointing, responsibility, and work that is necessary.
- Remember, God’s plans will always require you to increase.
- You can’t stay the same and get greater results. God will stretch you.

If you want more, more will be required.

- But God will fill you up so that you can do everything He wants you to do.

Elisha may not have been thinking of the costs of being even higher than Elijah's level.

- Maybe that's why Elijah felt the need to tell him that it wouldn't be easy.
- Sometimes the high places you dream about look easy, but when you actually walk there, you see things firsthand that you never even thought about!

Elijah had already walked the road of a great prophet and he knew what it took.

- This was a man with experience talking.

We need to realize that nothing is more rewarding and fulfilling than following God's plan and desiring big things, but we must never think that God's best is "easy."

- The devil fights and circumstances crop up.
- We are made to be more than conquerors because things in life need to be conquered!

Living out God's best for your life is an adventure and a joy, but it's not without effort and it doesn't make your life easier.

- It makes your personal life and the kingdom of God more effective.

Notice that Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's "spirit."

- In other words, Elisha recognized the divine Holy Spirit that flowed in Elijah's life.
- He knew that it was the source of Elijah's gifting as a prophet.

Elisha didn't ask for Elijah's personality or charisma or whatever.

- He was interested in the spirit of God that dwelled within him. Glory!
- The Holy Spirit is what helped Elijah in his ministry.
- What he couldn't do alone he was able to do with the Holy Spirit.
- While it still wasn't easy to be that level of prophet, that double portion definitely made him more effective at getting God's words out and God's work done.

You are a conduit of God's Spirit, but only to the degree that you draw close to Him, have faith in His words, obey Him, and do what He's called you to do.

- It's hard to flow in the Spirit of God if you don't attend to the Holy Spirit within you.
- You cannot give what you don't receive.

So, when you read the Word, confess the Word over your life, and spend time in prayer, you are stoking the gift of God within you.

- If you want to be effective in God's plan for your life, you must give great attention to the Holy Spirit that dwells within you.
- That's something *you* do. Never forget that it is *you* who stirs up the gift of God in *your* own life.
- Your passion should be focused on the Spirit within you that enables you to do the work rather than on the actual work itself—God must come first.

***Group Discussion: Do you know some people that like doing the work of God even more than they love God Himself?**

They like how it makes them feel to lead. Don't fall into that trap. You'll burn out if you do.

- Set your priority to love God more than you love the work, and then your work will be blessed and everything will be easier to handle.
- It won't be without effort and it'll always require faith.

God's Spirit will give you the strength, grace, and energy to complete your destiny and reach your destination without burning out.

Confess What God Shall Do for YOU!

1. I am not afraid of the double portion. A greater effectiveness in my life is worth double the work, double the responsibility, and double the anointing.
2. I draw close to God, have faith in His words, obey Him, and do what He's called me to do. I spend time with Him in prayer and stir up the gift of God in my life.

Close in Prayer.

The Double Portion

2nd Week October 2021 Bible Study Notes

Open Bible Study in prayer (led by the group leader or someone they choose).

***Voice of the Covenant Bible Study* is based on the monthly letters that Jesse writes to JDM's Partners throughout the world.**

- This year, each letter is focused around our theme for 2021: *"What shall I do for thee?"*

This statement is from 2 Kings 4:2 where Elisha spoke those six powerful words to a widow woman that came to him for help.

- Well, when God led Elisha to ask that question, He was also speaking to all of us who would read it down through the ages: *"What shall I do for thee?"*

God wants us to realize that we can never exhaust His possibilities or His power.

- We must refuse fear and put action with our faith.

***Instruct the group to turn to 2 Kings 2:9.**

Last week we began this month's Bible Study titled: "The Double Portion."

- We learned not to be afraid of the double portion and that a greater effectiveness in our life is worth double the work, double the responsibility, and double the anointing.
- We also saw that we must draw close to God, have faith in His words, obey Him, and do what He's called us to do.
- We must spend time with Him in prayer and stir up the gift of God in our life.

Today we will continue studying what the great Old Testament prophet Elijah said to Elisha.

***Invite someone in the group to read 2 King 2:9-10 KJV:**

*"And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask **what I shall do for thee**, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a **double portion** of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so."*

***Group Discussion: Why did Elijah tell Elisha he had to see him taken to Heaven in order to get a double portion?**

Elijah probably knew that if Elisha wanted something so divine, he'd need to be in the presence of something divine.

- For the transference of that kind of power, he'd have to be present when the power touched down to pick Elijah up.
- Where the Spirit is, there is power.

Much later in time, when Jesus' earthly ministry was ending and He was about to ascend to Heaven, He knew His disciples needed something divine in order to be effective in continuing His ministry on earth.

- Remember, both Elisha and Jesus wanted God's work on this earth to continue.
- All of this is about getting results.

After Jesus rose from the dead, He told His disciples to go and wait for the Holy Spirit that was coming.

- He had given them the great commission to go into all the world and preach the Gospel.
- But they were scared and hiding.
- They lacked power and boldness to continue the work.

***Group Discussion: How did the disciples of Jesus go up another level and become the powerful, bold, and anointed disciples we read about in the Word?**

The Holy Spirit!

- But in order to receive the Holy Spirit, they had to be *present* when He came down.
- That's why Jesus told them to gather and wait.
- That's why they were praying in the Upper Room.

Like Elisha, the disciples of Jesus had to be in the spot where the divine power of the Holy Spirit touched down.

- Only this time, the Holy Spirit had come to stay and make Himself available to ALL who believe. Glory!

After the Holy Spirit touched down in the Upper Room, fear left and boldness came!

- Power came and the miracle of speaking in other tongues began.

Although they were timid when they went into that Upper Room, they came out boldly preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ in other languages all throughout that city.

- They became powerhouse witnesses for Christ.

So, what was the purpose of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of Elisha?

- The purpose was to get results for God—to continue the ministry of God on this earth.

What was the purpose of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the disciples?

- The purpose was to get results for God—to continue His ministry on this earth.

God has the same ministry for us today.

- We are called to be effective in communicating God's message to people.
- We need to make sure we are in the presence of the Holy Spirit on a regular basis.
- We need to be filled to overflowing and receive His divine energy so that we can complete God's vision of helping people on this earth.

The second point of our Bible Study is: What we've been given through the work of Jesus, we are duty-bound to freely give to others.

- We lead by example and we lead by words.
- We lead by the Spirit of God that is within us, flowing out of us to others daily.

We need to understand that this is all about results in your life, in your family, in your community, and in this world.

- This is why we must preach and lay hands on people to be healed.
- This is why we must teach the principles of God that lead to prosperity in every area of life.

Elisha was interested in continuing the work.

- The disciples were interested in continuing the work.
- We should be interested in continuing the work, too.

The Holy Spirit took Elisha and the disciples to the next level.

- The Holy Spirit will take you to the next level too, if you'll let Him.

If you want to be more effective in God's plan for your life, get into the presence of the Holy Spirit.

- Fellowship with Him when you wake up, drive to work, or any time throughout your day.
- Never be afraid of asking God for more.
- Open up and ask Him for the things that you want that are on your heart.

Be willing to take double responsibility and double work because you were made to increase, not decrease.

- A double portion of the Holy Spirit within will help you to be exactly who God created you to be so you can have and do *everything* He's put on your heart.

You were made to be blessed in every way and *show* others what a God-follower really looks like.

Confess What God Shall Do for YOU!

1. I am duty-bound to freely give to others what I've been given through the work of Jesus. I lead by example and by words. The Spirit of God flows out of me to others daily.
2. The Holy Spirit will take me to the next level as I ask God for my double portion. I take double responsibility and double work because I was made to increase, not decrease.

Close in Prayer.

The Double Portion

3rd Week October 2021 Bible Study Notes

Open Bible Study in prayer (led by the group leader or someone they choose).

Today we will continue with week three of this month's Bible Study titled: "The Double Portion."

- We have been looking at the great Old Testament prophet Elijah and his servant, Elisha—the man who wanted to continue his work.

*Instruct the group to turn to 2 Kings 2:9.

At this point in Elijah's life, he was at the end of his earthly ministry.

- He knew his life on earth was done.
- He also knew that he would not die but *be taken away* to Heaven.
- He was going to be picked up and flown right off this planet!

Now, Elisha had seen the miracles in Elijah's prophetic ministry.

- He'd heard the words from God through Elijah.
- He'd felt the anointing that was on Elijah's life. He saw and heard it all firsthand.

*Group Discussion: Can you imagine what it must have been like to know that your mentor was literally about to be taken off the planet?

Most people would doubt it no matter how many miracles they'd seen.

- But not Elisha. He listened.

Let's continue studying what the prophet Elijah said to his servant, Elisha.

*Invite someone in the group to read 2 King 2:9-10 KJV:

*"And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask **what I shall do for thee**, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a **double portion** of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so."*

Remember the first point in our study: Double portions don't equal double the ease—they just may require double the work, double the responsibility, and double the anointing.

- Never be afraid of double in your life.
- Greater effectiveness will require all the anointing, responsibility, and work that is necessary.
- God's plans will always require you to increase.
- You can't stay the same and get greater results. God will stretch you.

The second point was: What we've been given through the work of Jesus, we are duty-bound to freely give to others.

- Be willing to take double responsibility and double work because you were made to increase, not decrease.

You were made to be blessed in every way and *show* others what a God-follower really looks like.

- You may be the only image of Jesus that some people ever really see.
- They need to see what Jesus living through a person like *you* looks like.
- We are all important in God's plan.

We're all different on purpose for His purpose, but we all should be in perfect unison in this:

- We should be Jesus' hands and feet in this earth and have our ears tuned to the Holy Spirit Who knows how to lead and guide us in all truth.

The third point in our Bible Study is: We must be listening to the divine voice so we can faithfully perform His divine will.

- Our ears must be tuned to hear His still, small voice leading us and not clogged up with the static of this world.
- This is so vitally important in our lives as Christians.

Voices are out there every day trying to fill our ears, but we must listen more closely to God's voice.

- Don't let the distractions drown out His still, small voice within your heart.

God's will must be done.

- It's why Jesus only said what His Father told Him to say and only did what His Father told Him to do (John 5:19; 12:49-50).
- It's why Ephesians 5:1 encourages us to *"Be ye therefore followers (imitators) of God, as dear children."*

It's very important that we are listening to the Holy Spirit every day of our lives.

- We may be the ONLY image of Jesus someone sees.
- Remember that Christ lives in us through the power of the Holy Spirit, so where we go, God goes.

We are a part of His plan.

- We work together to help others find hope, salvation, and freedom.

Now, it's a natural world.

- The natural man is governed solely by his senses.
- That is why it's good to show people what living for God looks like and not just talk.
- People like to look at what you have and see what your life is like.

People are curious, so we, as the body of Christ, should show them something good.

- It's about giving God glory in everything.
- We should not be ashamed of His blessings, whether they are spiritual, physical, financial, or in any other area.

It's not enough to just tell people about the Lord, you've got to show them what affect the Lord has had on your life.

- You do that daily—in the way you handle the little things and the big things.
- You'd be surprised how much of a witness you can be in the everyday little things.

If God and the principles of His Word have helped you, show it.

- People need to see what it looks like to be joyful, at peace, merciful, and wise.
- They need to see what it means to be blessed by God financially as well.
- They need to see what it looks like to be as wise as a serpent but harmless as a dove.

God's will must be performed on this earth, and it takes people listening every day to the voice of the Holy Spirit within to do it.

- We must have our ears tuned to His Spirit, not clogged up with the static-talking of a fallen world.
- This is not hard if we attend to the Holy Spirit in the morning, sow the Word in our heart, and talk to the Lord throughout the day.

When you can, be quiet so you can hear Him—pay attention to the promptings of your heart.

- When you are out and about, let the Holy Spirit in you flow out of you.
- Don't keep your light hidden. Let your personality shine.

You aren't a carbon copy of anybody.

- You are a child of God.
- The effect of the Holy Spirit on your life is a special blend of Him and you and it's something to see—so show that!

Don't be afraid to let your light shine.

- With every beam, you are pointing people to the One Who gave you that light in the first place.

Confess What God Shall Do for YOU!

1. I listen to the divine voice and faithfully perform His divine will. My ears are tuned to hear His still, small voice and are not clogged up with the static of this world.
2. I let the Holy Spirit in me flow out of me. I am a child of God—I let my light shine and point people to the One Who gave me light.

Close in Prayer.

The Double Portion

4th Week October 2021 Bible Study Notes

Open Bible Study in prayer (led by the group leader or someone they choose).

Today we will conclude this month's Bible Study titled: "The Double Portion."

*Instruct the group to turn to 2 Kings 2:9.

Our study has focused on a question from the great Old Testament prophet Elijah.

- He spoke these words at the end of his earthly ministry to his servant, Elisha.

We have seen that this question is very similar to the theme God gave us for 2021: *"What shall I do for thee?"*

- Whether it's in a spiritual area, a physical area, or a financial area, we must realize that God cares about every area of our lives.
- That seems too easy to simply ask, but that is exactly what God wants when we pray.

Let's read again what the prophet Elijah said to his servant, Elisha.

*Invite someone in the group to read 2 King 2:9-10 KJV:

*"And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask **what I shall do for thee**, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a **double portion** of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so."*

We learned in our first lesson that double portions don't equal double the ease—they just may require double the work, double the responsibility, and double the anointing.

- In our second lesson, we saw that what we've been given through the work of Jesus, we are duty-bound to freely give to others.
- Then, in our third lesson last week, we learned that we must be listening to the divine voice so we can faithfully perform His divine will.

*Instruct the group to turn to 1 Timothy 4:14.

You never know what the Holy Spirit will do through you.

- You never know who you are going to encounter in your day.
- You don't know what situations will arise in your day, not only in your own life but also in the lives of others you meet along the way.

People need different things at different times.

*Invite someone in the group to read 1 Timothy 4:14 KJV:

"Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."

That brings us to the fourth point of our Bible Study: Neglect not the gift that is in thee.

- People need what you've got!

1 Corinthians 12:31 says: *"**But covet earnestly the best gifts...**"*

*Group Discussion: Which gifts are those and which ones are the best?

Well, the best gifts are the ones that are needed at the time.

- Again, you never know what the Holy Spirit will do through you!
- It's best to desire and crave the giftings of the Holy Spirit. Elisha did.
- The disciples did, too.

Only those who desired and obeyed Jesus' words to wait in one place got that first dose of the baptism of fire in the Upper Room.

- They flowed in the gifts and God used them to touch others around them—He's still using them to touch us today.

The desire for spiritual exaltation is noble, pure, and right if you always give God glory for the gifts.

- Elisha was about ready to be promoted to the office of the prophet, but he may never have walked in that calling if he hadn't desired the double portion.
- He had to ask for it and seek it out by meeting the condition of Elijah.

Desiring more of God is good!

- Asking for what He's got is good!

Every man's work must continue.

- Elijah was called up and Elisha was called out to fulfill the work that God had called *both* of them to do.

God will have His way no matter what the devil tries to do.

- God's work will be finished on this earth.
- Anyone called to preach the Word or even just let their light shine as a beacon to others is part of this work.
- The work is to go ye into all the world and preach this Gospel (Mark 16:15)—it's Good News and people need to hear it!

The final point of this month's Bible Study is this: God must be glorified in the perfection of His sons and daughters.

- You are not perfect in the flesh, but you are perfect through the blood of Jesus.
- You were washed white as snow in His redemptive blood, given the Holy Spirit to empower you, and the Word to light your way and guide your steps.
- You've got what it takes!

The fivefold ministry and the job of the Church is to ready the saints for eternity and prepare people for Christ's return.

- One day, the body of Christ is going to depart this place we call earth (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
- This is a promise of God. We are going!

That's why we, as the body of Christ, must edify, console, convert, and strengthen others—we want as many people saved as possible, and as many Christians on the right path as possible, too.

- We want results because God cares about salvaging people from the brokenness of this world and from the plan of the enemy to destroy lives.
- Sharing God is what you can do every day of your life, and flowing in the Holy Spirit can be your habit—and to a greater degree than ever before—even a double portion.

Never let anyone go to hell if you can stop it by sharing the Word of God and the story of how your own life was changed.

- Don't let them miss Heaven because you were too distracted to let your light shine.

Be careful to always keep watch over yourself so that no glory that belongs to God is desired by you.

- Remember, again, it is God that must be glorified. He will not share His glory with anyone.
- We praise Him, we serve Him, and we get the benefits of being His children—but He is the One entitled to ALL the glory.

Always remember that no matter what gift God gives us, no matter how powerfully we flow in His Holy Spirit, He is the reason and He should get all the glory!

- Take no credit for what God does, and point everyone who sees your blessings to the reason behind it all—Jesus!

Confess What God Shall Do for YOU!

1. I do not neglect the gift of God that is in me and always give God glory. The only Jesus some may ever see is the Jesus in me.
2. I desire a double portion enough to ask God for it, and I seek it out by meeting the conditions. I desire and obey Jesus' words. Desiring more of God is good! Asking for what He's got is good!
3. God must be glorified in the perfection of His sons and daughters. I am perfect through the blood of Jesus. The Word lights my way and guides my steps.
4. I want a double portion. I let my light shine and I keep watch over myself. No glory that belongs to God is desired by me. He should get all the glory!

Close in Prayer.