

WHAT IS YOUR NEXT STEP?

From *2 Kings 3* we can learn some important lessons of applying our faith in God!

2 Kings 3:4-24 (esv) Now Mesha king of Moab raised sheep. He had to pay the king of Israel 100,000 lambs and the wool of 100,000 rams each year. ⁵ But when Ahab died, the king of Moab turned against the king of Israel. ⁶ So King Jehoram went out of Samaria at that time and called all Israel together. ⁷ Then he went and sent word to Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, saying, “The king of Moab has turned against me. Will you go with me to fight against Moab?” And Jehoshaphat said, “I will go. I am as you are. My people are as your people. My horses are as your horses.” ⁸ Then he said, “Which way should we go?” And he answered, “By the way of the desert of Edom.” ⁹ So the king of Israel went with the king of Judah and the king of Edom. They traveled around for seven days, ...but there was no water for the army or the cattle that followed them. ¹⁰ The king of Israel said, “It is bad! For the Lord has called these three kings to give them into the hand of Moab.”

GENUINE FAITH ACCEPTS SETBACKS

The three kings set out on their journey quite confident of success. Failure seemed impossible.

How could everything go so wrong?
Where is God?

Genuine faith is not dismayed when setbacks occur, nor does it abandon hope or blames God.

GENUINE FAITH SEEKS A WORD FROM GOD

¹¹ Jehoshaphat said, “Is there not a man who speaks for God here? Is there no one we can ask to learn what the Lord would have us do?” One of the servants of the king of Israel answered, “Elisha the son of Shaphat is here. He poured water on the hands of Elijah.” ¹² And Jehoshaphat said, “The word of the Lord is with him.” So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.

In times of difficulty, uncertainty or crisis, we need a Word from God!

***Proverbs 11:14** (nkjv) Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.*

***Proverbs 15:22** (nlt) Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success.*

There is no substitute for the Lord's confirming Word of encouragement or guidance.

But we must **SEEK** and **ASK** Him in faith, trusting that He will answer.

James 1:5-8 (gw) *If any of you needs wisdom to know what you should do, you should ask God, and He will give it to you. God is generous to everyone and doesn't find fault with them. ⁶ When you ask for something, don't have any doubts. A person who has doubts is like a wave that is blown by the wind and tossed by the sea. ⁷ A person who has doubts shouldn't expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ A person who has doubts is thinking about two different things at the same time and can't make up his mind about anything.*

Some people are not confident that God will speak to them because of their past experiences.

¹³ *Elisha said to the king of Israel, "What have I to do with you? Go to the men who tell what will happen in the future that your father and mother have gone to." And the king of Israel said to him, "No. It is the Lord Who has called these three kings together to give them into the hand of Moab."*

¹⁴ *Elisha said, "As the Lord of all lives, before Whom I stand, if I did not care for Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look at you or see you. ¹⁵ But now bring me a man who plays music." And when the man played music, the power of the Lord came upon Elisha.*

There are times when we just need to **stop** and **prepare** ourselves to **hear** from God.

Psalms 37:7a (esv) *Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him...*

Notice how precise God's instructions were.

¹⁶ He said, “This is what the Lord says, ‘Make this valley full of ditches.’ ¹⁷ For the Lord says, ‘You will not see wind or rain. But that valley will be filled with water so that you and your cattle and your animals will drink.’ ¹⁸ This is only a small thing in the eyes of the Lord. He will give you the Moabites also. ¹⁹ Then you will destroy every strong city and cut down every good tree. You will close all the wells of water, and destroy every good piece of land with stones.”

Once we receive a confirming Word from God, then we can set out confidently, knowing God is with us and has prepared a way for us!

²⁰ The next morning, about the time when the gift is given on the altar, water came by the way of Edom. The country was filled with water. ²¹ Now all the Moabites heard that the kings had come up to fight against them. All who were able to wear battle-clothes, young and old, were called together. And they stood at the side of the land of Moab. ²² They got up early in the morning. The sun was shining on the water. And the Moabites saw that the water beside them was as red as blood. ²³ They said, “This is blood. For sure the kings have fought and killed one another. So now, Moab, let us take what is left!” ²⁴ But when they came to the tents of Israel, the Israelites came and fought against the Moabites. The Moabites ran from them. And Israel went on into the land, killing the Moabites.

Genuine faith was displayed in Elisha. *This is only a small thing in the eyes of the Lord (Vs. 18).*

GENUINE FAITH KNOWS THE POWER OF GOD

There were two key characteristics to the promise God gave them:

1. He would **meet** their **need**
2. He would **destroy** their **opposition**.

Seize the promises of God through an unshakeable confidence in God's power to perform His promise!

BUT our miracle may happen only when we take the first steps of action to make it happen.

Action is the catalyst that faith uses to unleash the energy of God to do the impossible.

Genuine faith is always active rather than passive!

What faith action, or initiation, on your part does your miracle require?

What step of faith do you need to make?