**Go to God (2 Kings 6:8-10)**

 The will of God is realized in us when we listen to Him in the thick of battle. Good day to you all, as our journey through the Old Testament brings us through the events of the life of the Prophet Elisha. If we’re going to understand the complete background of today’s message, we need to keep in mind a few realities about Elisha: First, that Elisha’s life started out as an ordinary person, a farmer. After becoming a student of the prophet Elijah, however, he changed and experienced the ministry of being a prophet in exactly double the measure miracles that Elijah had had. Elisha was one who became God’s conduit for miracles for years. He did so for God’s people in general and its kings in particular for both Kingdoms, namely Judah and Israel. We may say that Elisha was so faithful to God’s word that when he himself spoke, people would recognize God speaking directly to them. Taking this into consideration, we are going to attempt to better understand just what role trusting God has when we find ourselves in the middle of a battle. The will of God is realized in us when we listen to Him in the thick of battle. Let us talk about listening to the voice of God, then…

 When you’re looking for answers to your question, only God’s voice will give you a genuine answer. I can already imagine that many of you will bring to mind questions to which neither you, nor even preachers and other servants of the church have the answers. However, let me invite you to take a look at how merciful God was to his children, even when they were only partially faithful in going to Him through His prophets. Once, Elisha became the means of victory for both the king of Judah and Israel because he saw that there was still faith in one of the kings (Jehoshaphat of Judah). After that, Elisha proved himself a number of times by being a helper of the poor, a helper of a widow, and being a conduit for the raising of the Shunamite woman’s son from the dead. He saved the disciples of the Lord (the “sons” of the prophets) from being poisoned and fed 100 people with 20 portions of bread. He proved himself by healing Naaman the Syrian Commander from leprosy and aiding one of his pupils by miraculously making an axe head float up to the surface of the water of a river when the disciple had lost it.

I bring all this up to say that Elisha’s word, his voice was the Voice of the Lord in that time. The Holy Spirit was not residing in every believing Israelite at that time, and it was necessary to go to the local or national prophet for someone, especially a leader, to receive the message and direction of the Lord concerning a matter. Also, it is important to remember that the majority of the population was unschooled and generally trusted the decisions of the king, the priests, and the prophets. Knowing this, Elisha, according to the verses we read, was cautioning the king of Israel from falling into the enemy’s ambushes. By listening to Elisha, the king was saved from trouble many times.

This is akin to the times when we read a sign saying “Slow down” while we’re driving. Suddenly, we see that we are in a more densely populated area, and we remember that that sign had been put there for our own safety. We completely trust the signs at the sides of our roads; however:

Do we have the same amount of trust in the warnings of God which come from His Word, be they from the Bible or from messages from preachers? Each one of us has a road to walk in this life… During that journey, just as the Israelites found success in what they did when they went to the prophets for direction, today we not only have God’s servants but even more, we have Gods written Word and His Constant Presence in the Person of Holy Spirit. We are to go to them when we arrive at life’s crossroads.

How much do we trust ourselves, instead of putting aside our shortsighted logic and going to God’s all-seeing knowledge? Very often, as believers, we are swallowed up by our fears and worries; however, these are enemy tactics designed to make us forget our Source of victory.

Today, as you find yourself in the middle of decisions to make and in front of many challenges, go to God’s Word. Go to the Holy Spirit with prayer! Go to the servant of God so that they can pray with you and you can receive help in hearing God’s unique message for you. Ask that the doors be opened that you need to go through. Ask that the doors that lead to harmful paths be closed. Today, make a decision to go to God for your answers! Do not fear! Do not complain! Do not doubt God’s good will for your life.

When you’re looking for answers to your question, only God’s voice will give you a genuine answer. The will of God is realized in us when we listen to Him in the thick of battle.

Go to God. Don’t trust yourself. Amen.