

BY FAITH – 7
FEBRUARY 18, 2018

INTRODUCTION:

Our title comes from **HEBREWS 11** where the writer defines faith and reveals that the only way to understand creation is by faith. He also expresses how faith enabled the elders and patriarchs to accomplish great things for God, and that without faith no one can please God. Last week we saw how faith needs patience to undergird it in order to see the project through to the end. This morning we will continue with **1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5**, where Paul says our faith is to be in the power of God. My subtitle is **GUTS, GRIT AND GLORY**, and our focus will be on Elisha the prophet. Elisha was called to succeed Elijah and he knew he needed the power of God in order to fulfil the call. So he asked for a double portion of the Spirit that was on Elijah.

THE REASON – 2 KINGS 2:9-10

1. The southern kingdom was ruled by good kings that brought about spiritual reform, but the northern kingdom was ruled by evil kings that led the people into idolatry. Elisha knew what he would be up against and knew only God's power could help him succeed.
 - A. We are no match for the evil forces in this world. We all need the power of God in order to do the will of God. It's not intellectual, military, secular or political power, it's the power of God.

THE ROAD – 2 KINGS 2:1-8

1. Elisha's request took 20 years to materialize. The ride was one of guts and grit, before glory. Guts means he had to dig deep within. Grit means strength of character, courage and resolve. The road went from:
 - A. Gilgal – The place of beginnings. This is where the Israelite's celebrated Passover in the promised land and where the covenant was renewed. This is our Calvary where the Author of our faith gave His life. It's our first stop on the road to glory.
 - B. Bethel – The place of visitation where Jacob met God and dreamed of angels. This is where we meet with God who gives us our vision.
 - C. Jericho – The place of manifestation where Jericho's walls came down. This is our place of victory.
 - D. Jordan – This is the place of death to self, where Paul said "I no longer live, but Christ liveth in me." This is where we surrender all.

THE RESOLVE – 2 KINGS 2:2

1. Elisha could have taken the easy road. He could've stayed at any city along the way. Each city held a special place in the heart of a Jew and would have been a great place to settle down in.
 - A. We can be satisfied at the cross being saved, or we can move on as Elisha did. The same is true with Bethel and Jericho. By faith we can go from glory to glory and sell out completely to God.

THE RESPONSE – 2 KINGS 2:11-24

1. Elisha saw Elijah go up and got his double portion.
 - A. He returns to Jordan, Jericho and Bethel not in his own strength, but with God's power.
2. Jesus has ascended on high. The Spirit has descended with **FIRE** and **POWER** that is available to all who are willing to move on with God. **ACS 1:8**
 - A. The Spirit supplies the power. What is our response? Will we stay at Gilgal, or go all the way with God?