

On The Frontier

“For the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

For Best Results Apply Full Strength

by Linus A. Mathis III

To receive the promises of God, we must do precisely as His Word instructs. This is mandatory and it's called believing. We must NEVER alter the instructions of His Word by adding to or subtracting from them.

II Kings 2:19

And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city *is* pleasant [good], as my lord seeth: but the water *is* naught [bad], and the ground barren [sterile].

What could be more important than fertile ground and good water? They needed help, so they asked Elisha. He got his answer from God and gave it to them.

Verse 20

And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. And they brought *it* to him.

Biblically, salt has great significance. To the people in Elisha's, time salt represented integrity and fidelity. Moreover, it was greatly valued for its cleansing, healing and preservative qualities.

Verse 21

And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren *land*.

Verse 22

So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake.

Wow, that must have been some potent salt! Or is there a deeper truth?

II Kings 4:38-41

And Elisha came again to Gilgal: and *there was* a dearth [a famine] in the land; and the sons of the prophets *were* sitting before him: and he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and seethe pottage [boil a stew] for the sons of the prophets.

Verse 39

And one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered thereof wild gourds his lap full, and came and shred *them* into the pot of pottage: for they knew *them* not.

Apparently, they had plans for a

nice vegetable stew, but the famine made it difficult for them to find the proper ingredients. So, in their search for wild "edibles" they came across a vine of gourds. Despite the fact that this was not a recognizable gourd to them, hunger spurred them on. This could have proven fatal as the gourd was probably colocintida or colocynth which is a vegetable poison. In small amounts it has medicinal value but, larger doses can be lethal.

Verse 40

So they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O *thou* man of God, *there is* death in the pot. And they could not eat *thereof*.

Verse 41

But he said, Then bring meal [flour]. And he cast *it* into the pot; and he said, Pour out for the people, that they may eat. And there was no harm in the pot.

That must have been some very strong flour! Or is there a greater reason for such spectacular results?

Before we go on, let me ask you something. Have you ever bought non-prescription cold

medicine? If you're like me the first thing you do is **CAREFULLY** read the directions and warnings. The package has copious instructions, doesn't it? They're small too. It's a strain on your eyes but you can't be too careful. You want to be absolutely certain that you don't exceed their recommendations. Yet, because you seek relief, you diligently take the maximum dosages at the prescribed intervals. You want the maximum relief in the minimum amount of time. Safely, of course! The same is true with cleaning products. You want results so you follow the manufacturer's instructions, which in most cases are "for best results apply full strength." In fact when not applied full strength, results are often absent. Why go into all of this? Because following directions is important if you want results.

So then, if it's the promise of God you seek, it's the Word of God you must implement. We can't expect results from God if we deviate from His Word.

Elisha didn't have "miracle salt" or "miracle flour," but he did have the Word of God. When he carried out the instructions he got the results. (Which in both cases were miraculous.) He literally followed the instructions. He didn't alter them to agree with his own logic and he didn't water them down. He did precisely as God instructed.

II Kings 4:42-44

And there came a man from Baalshalisha, and brought the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley, and full ears of corn in the husk [in his sack] thereof. And he said, Give unto the people, that they may eat.

Verse 43

And his servitor said, What, should I set this before an hundred men? He said again, Give the people, that they may eat: for thus saith the LORD, They shall eat, and shall leave *thereof*.

Verse 44

So he set *it* before them, and they did eat, and left *thereof*, according to the word of the LORD.

He was able to feed a hundred men with twenty loaves of barley and a sack full of corn. Was this because he had "magic bread" and a "bottomless sack?" No, not at all! It was because he did EXACTLY as the Lord had said. Elisha was convinced that if God said something would happen, it would. Therefore, he acted with literal precision upon the Word of God. His meticulous action upon the Word of God is what produced the three miracles we just read about.

Nowadays, it seems a rare event when the purity of God's Word is set forth and literally believed. Even the most outspoken and

prominent Christian groups seem to embrace a "watered down" gospel. Just the other day I heard a very famous Doctor of Theology speaking on the subject of loving God. He said there were three questions you could ask yourself to determine if you did. The first was, "If Christ (he said Jesus) came back today, would you be happy or sad?" The second was, "If you could no longer sin, would you be disappointed?" And the final was, "If the Lord took back His Word and you could no longer read your Bible, would you miss it?" I was dumbfounded. These were to me undeserving of answers. I long for Christ's Return! My hope in him is what gives me the strength to go on. If it weren't for the promise of his Return, I don't know what I would do. Take away the possibility of sinning? What could be better? The most uncommitted Christians I have known would give anything to have the possibility of sinning taken from them! Not have the Bible! I would be lost! So many questions would go unanswered. What would I eat? My mouth is opened wide, I pant and long for His commandments. His Word is better to me than gold and sweeter to my palate than honey. These aren't the questions you ask of a Christian interested in acting literally upon God's Word. These would have been rhetorical to me from the day I was sanctified. What kind of questions are these for a learned

man to ask of others?

How could a clergy man address the lay person thusly? Because the Scripture that colors his belief systems has been so diluted it is barely detectable. Why, even the word theology testifies so. Did you know that Theology and Christology exist primarily to prove the existence of God? Do you think that God needs for any one of us to prove His existence? Don't you think it would be better if we testified of His goodness? Wouldn't we be better advised to proclaim the greatness of His Word? We need to get back to a correct and precise application of God's Word. It's necessary if we want His Hand in our lives and we should demand it of ourselves.

II Corinthians 4:1,2

Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

Verse 2

But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

The hidden things of dishonesty are shameful secret things. We have renounced the hidden things, that is, planning to deliberately fool people about the Word. Yes, there are those who

do. They handle the Word of God deceitfully because the Bible is only used as centerpiece to bait the listener. They thump it, but they don't teach it. They quote a verse or two and then begin to expound on something totally unrelated to the verses quoted. Everything gets quoted out of context and has little relevancy to the ideas being conveyed. We dare not behave this way. What we are to do is give a full manifestation of the truth. In other words, we give the Truth of God's Word as best we understand it. We aren't perfect but His Word is.

II Corinthians 2:14-17

Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

Verse 15

For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

Verse 16

To the one *we are* the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who *is* sufficient for these things?

This is analogous of the Roman triumphal procession. The Romans (well known for their pomp and circumstance) began their march outside the city and

ended it at the capitol. The Senate paid for it out of tax money. The Senators and magistrates would be leading the march. Next would come the trumpeters, then the floats with pictures of the conquered city. This would be followed by the spoils of war (gold, silver, jewels, the enemies weapons and armor). Seventy white oxen would follow next (which were to be sacrificed), then the war captives, heavily bound in chains (most of them would die). Next, musicians and incense bearers. Then a highly decorated chariot with the victorious general in purple robes, with a gold crown, ivory scepter and laurel branch. Lastly, the soldiers. The streets would be lined with people and decorated with laurels, the air filled with the perfume of incense. This smell of incense was to the victors a sweet smell of victory but to the captives the smell of death. Likewise, we have been led in victory by our Lord Jesus Christ. When we live for our Lord and speak the Word, we are to those who are saved the sweet smell of life unto life. But, to those who are not and don't want to be, the smell of death unto death.

Verse 17

For we are not as many, which corrupt [dilute, adulterate] the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

In the lands and times of the Bible the dishonest wine merchants were known to water down their wine. (Some saloon keepers are guilty of the same today.) Dishonest produce merchants would put their rotten fruit in the bottom of the basket and cover it with the good looking fruit. This they did for for personal gain. We don't do that with the Word.

We also don't water down the Truth for fear of offending people. We give the Word FULL STRENGTH. It isn't that we deliberately try to inflame others with our doctrine, but we refuse to compromise its greatness for anyone. Because, we know that for best results you apply full strength.

This may all sound rudimentary to you and you may disagree with what I said earlier regarding that famous Doctor of Theology. However, if we wish to take God's Word seriously there are some things we need to address. You will have to make your word your will (few do). Work hard to maintain your personal integrity (most don't). Don't say things you don't mean or make promises you can't keep. Don't be like the world. They don't even know what integrity is anymore and neither do most Christians. It will be a fight but it will be worth it.

If you don't want your results watered down, don't water down

your application of His Word. The reason most of us don't see the results we'd like is because we don't seriously do the Word. Like with honesty and integrity. Or loving God with all (not part) of your heart, soul, mind and strength and your neighbor as yourself. We love and cherish our own flesh and should be willing to do as much for those we are near should they need it. As for our relationship with God, nothing must ever take His place. Not even for a moment. Nothing less than our all will do. He doesn't want our love for Him diluted. Never water down your love!

How about daily fellowship? Daily! So, once a week is not daily, is it? How about twice a week? Three times? No! Daily means every day. If you want full strength results, it must be daily.

I could offer many examples to show how watered down Christianity has become. You know that's true. But, I'll leave you with just one more to consider. Tithing. That means ten percent of all increase goes to God. Our gross income is our increase. Our tithe is to come from our gross. The net income that we see has already been violated by our government. In fact, they don't ask, they just take. Ten percent, that is the starting point. Really, you haven't begun to give till you tithe. Nothing less will do, not now, not ever. Not if we want to

see full results. Also, don't give "selectively." You decide who you give it to, but once you do, don't try to determine how it should be used. Not before you give and not after.

Each of us must decide if we want the adult strength maximum dosage or not. As for me, I seek relief. I'll take mine full strength and I'll be careful to follow the directions.
