

Elijah and Elisha

1 Kings 19:19-21

God helps Elijah

(a) The Word (Rom. 15:4)

(b) other believers encouraging one another (2 Cor. 1:4; 1 Thess. 5:11; Heb. 3:13)

How has God encouraged you?

The Mantle

(1) This mantle was the official garment of a prophet.

(2) Throwing it over the shoulders of Elisha was a symbolic act denoting his summons to the office of prophet, but it was also a sure sign of God's gift that enabled him to fulfill the prophetic office and ministry.

(3) Every believer is a priest of God (1 Pet. 2:5, 9) and is in some sense called to full-time service to represent the Lord. As believers in Christ, we are God's representatives and called to ministry according to the gifts God gives us.

What God has gifted you to do, He has called you to do. What He has called you to do, He has gifted you to do. How do you know God's call? By knowing your gift(s).

There are special commands concerning spiritual gifts: (a) we are to know our gift(s)--Romans 12:3; (b) we should never neglect our gift(s)--1 Timothy 4:14; (c) we are to stir up, be zealous for our gift(s)--2 Timothy 1:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20; and (d) we are to use our gift(s) in love, serving others by the strength which God supplies and for the glory of God--1 Peter 4:10-11; Romans 12:4

Elisha's Response

1. Honors his parents
2. Celebrates this new ministry.
3. Commits his well-being and life to his call.

Servanthood

His first role in this new call - servanthood - Elisha "assisted him".

We are servants of God in all that we do.

Mark 10:43-45, "but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son man did not come to be served, but to serve."

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 4:10-11