

#3 Elisha Being a Type of Christ in His Ministry of Grace in Life and as a Man of God Behaving Himself as God's Representative, as the Acting God

Bird's-eye view 10/3-9

I Elisha is a type of Christ in doing miracles of grace in life: **A** In the fulfillment of the types and figures in the Old Testament, Christ is the real Elisha; as the real Elisha, the Lord Jesus is a sweet and pleasant prophet, a prophet of blessing. **B** Elisha is a type in the Old Testament who represented God's New Testament economy in grace: **1** Grace is God doing everything for us by giving Himself to us as our enjoyment. **2** This grace issues in the divine life, which is rich and high, even unto making us co-kings with Christ. [Rom. 5:17](#) ...much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. **C** The significance of the miracle performed by Elisha in healing the water at Jericho and of the miracle performed by the Lord Jesus in changing water in wine is the same—the changing of death into life. [2 Kings 2:21](#) And he went out to the source of the water and threw salt there; and he said, Thus says Jehovah, I have healed this water; there will not be any more death or barrenness from there. **D** Elisha's calling things not being as being was the same thing in principle that the Lord Jesus did when He fed the multitudes.

Inspiration :

E Elisha's resurrecting the dead from death, giving life to the dead, is the same as what the Lord Jesus did, both physically and spiritually. **F** Elisha's nullifying the poison of the wild gourds with flour is the same in principle as the Lord Jesus' healing His disciples of the leaven of the Pharisees with Himself as the fine flour. [2 Kings 4:40-41](#) And they poured out the stew for the men to eat. And while they were eating some of the stew, they cried out and said, O man of God, there is poison in the pot. And they were not able to eat it. And he said, Then bring some flour. And he threw it into the pot and said, Pour it out for the people that they may eat. And there was nothing harmful in the pot. **G** Elisha's causing an axe head that had fallen into the water to float by means of a wooden stick signifies

Christ's recovering through His cross in resurrection the lost power of sinners that had fallen into the death water.

Inspiration :

H Elisha performed miracles of divine healing for others, but, in the will of God, he himself was not healed by a miracle; this was the experience of Paul and his fellow workers: [2 Kings 13:14](#) Now when Elisha was ill with his illness by which he eventually died, Joash the king of Israel went down to him and wept over him and said, My father! My father! ... **1** Paul left Trophimus at Miletus in sickness without exercising healing prayer for him and did not exercise his healing gift to cure Timothy of his stomach sickness. **2** Paul and his co-workers were under the discipline of the inner life in that time of suffering rather than under the power of the outward gift: [2 Kings 13:21](#) And it so happened that as the people were burying a man... and they cast the man into the grave of Elisha. And as soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he came to life and stood up on his feet. **1** Even the dead Elisha could enliven people. **2** This is a picture of Christ in resurrection.

Inspiration :

I Like Moses, Samuel, and Paul, Elisha, a man of God, behaved as God's representative, as the acting God, on the earth: [Jer. 15:1](#) ...Even though Moses and Samuel were to stand before Me, My soul would not turn toward this people... **A** Jehovah told Moses that He had made him God to Pharaoh: [Exo. 7:1](#) And Jehovah said to Moses, see, I have made you God to Pharaoh; **1** In Moses God had one to represent Him and to execute His will; Moses never spoke to Pharaoh on his own but always spoke what the Lord had told him to say. **2** Actually, Pharaoh was not listening to Moses, God's ambassador, and dealing

with him; he was listening to God and dealing with God. **B** Samuel was the representative of God to rule over His people on earth; as such, Samuel was the acting God: [1 Sam. 2:35](#) And I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in My heart and in My mind; and I will build him a sure house; and he will go before My anointed continually. **1** Samuel could be the acting God because his being and God's heart were one. **2** Samuel was God's oracle and God's administration, and thus, he was the acting God.

Inspiration :

C In his ministry Paul, a man of God, was the acting God in comforting the believers, in conducting himself in the simplicity of God, in expressing the jealousy of God, and in being an ambassador of Christ to carry out the ministry of reconciliation: [2 Cor. 11:2](#) For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. **1** All during the apostle Paul's long and unfortunate imprisonment-voyage, the Lord kept him in His ascendancy and enabled him to live a life far beyond the realm of anxiety: [Acts 27:24](#) ...Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you. **2** The New Testament believers can be the same as Paul in functioning as the acting God.

Inspiration :

III As God's chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people who are one with God, who are constituted with God, who live God, who express God, who move with God, and who represent God, we may function as the acting God: **A** As God's chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people, we should be one with God: [1 Cor. 6:17](#) But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. **1** The basic principle of the Bible is that in His economy God is making Himself one with man and is

making man one with Him. **2** God desires that the divine life and the human life be joined together to become one life that has one living. **B** We need to be constituted with God: **1** God's economy is to dispense Himself into our being so that our being may be constituted with His being to be one constitution with His being. **2** In the divine life and by the working of the law of the divine life, God will be wrought into us, and we will be constituted with Him in His life and nature. **C** As those who are one with God and constituted with God, we should be God: [Phil. 1:21](#) For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. [2 Cor. 1:21-22](#) But the One who firmly attaches us with you unto Christ and has anointed us is God, He who has also sealed us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge. **1** According to His economy, God's intention is to impart His element, His substance, and the ingredients of His nature into our being so that we may live Him. **2** Our daily life should actually be God Himself and thus be a life of constantly living God. **D** We should express God: **1** God's eternal purpose is to work Himself into us as our life so that we may express Him. **2** God's aim in His economy is that we would be one with Him and live Him for His corporate expression. **E** As those who express God, we should move with God: **1** God needed the children of Israel to cooperate with Him in His move in His economy as the great wheel. **2** We need to be one with God in His heart's desire and in His move on earth. **F** As we move with God, we should represent God: **1** In order to represent God with authority, we must express God in life; because Aaron had the resurrection life to express God, he had the authority to represent God. **2** The proper way to work for God is to represent God. **G** If we are one with God, constituted with God, live God, express God, move with God, and represent God, we can function as the acting God: **1** God is able to make us the same as He is in life, nature, expression, and function to carry out His economy. **2** In his ministry Elisha the prophet, as a man of God, behaved himself as God's representative, as the acting God; today we, the believers in Christ, can be the same, functioning in His economy as the acting God.

Inspiration :

CP1 Thoroughly repent from the old church life which pays attention to the miracles and outward things, and walk the way of life

IB Elisha is a type in the Old Testament who represented God's New Testament economy in grace: **1** Grace is God doing everything for us by giving Himself to us as our enjoyment. **2** This grace issues in the divine life, which is rich and high, even unto making us co-kings with Christ. Rom. 5:17 ...Those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. **C** The significance of the miracle performed by Elisha in healing the water at Jericho and of the miracle performed by the Lord Jesus in changing water into wine is the same—the changing of death into life.

Elisha was a type of Christ in doing miracles of grace in life. Elijah did some great miracles, such as closing up the heavens so that it might not rain and calling down fire from heaven to consume the burnt offering and the water that had been poured upon it. However, when Elisha came in to replace him, he did not perform wonders. Instead, Elisha did miracles of grace in life.

Many Christians pay attention to miracles, but they neglect the matters of grace and life or speak of them in a very shallow way. Paul emphasized grace very much in the book of Romans. In Romans justification by grace is unto the reigning in life.

When the men of the city [of Jericho] told Elisha that the water was bad and that the land was barren, he went out to the source of the water and threw salt there, saying, “Thus says Jehovah, I have healed this water; there will not be any more death or barrenness from there” (2 Kings 2:21). Jericho signifies Satan, and with Satan everything is death, including the water. But the bad water of Jericho was healed according to the word of Elisha and became good water, water that gave life. The first miracle the Lord Jesus performed in the Gospel of John was the changing of water into wine. The significance of this miracle is the changing of death into life. Changing death into life is the governing principle of all the Lord's miracles in the Gospel of John and of all the cases dealt with by Him in chapters 3 through 11 of John. The significance of the miracle performed by Elisha in 2 Kings 2 and of the miracle performed by the Lord Jesus in John 2 is the same—the changing of death into life.

Application to young people, college students, new ones

1 “The History and Revelation of the Lord's Recovery”, vol.1, pp.130-: “In May of 1943...I had contracted a serious case of tuberculosis...I saw the tree of life during the two and a half years of

my illness. During those two and a half years I saw that in the Lord's recovery and in His work we lacked life. Every kind of problem, regardless of what it may be, is the result of a shortage of life. When I saw this, I was extremely remorseful, I confessed much and had a thorough repentance before the Lord, and I also had many dealings before Him...The messages on the tree of life saved many saints and also released many of the brothers and sisters in Nanking. Because of the four years of turmoil in the church in Shanghai, the saints had been disheartened and depressed for years and were unable to do anything. These messages released their spirit and enlightened their heart...I thank the Lord that through the messages on the tree of life, the church in Shanghai was healed...The messages on the tree of life laid a foundation for the revival of the church in Shanghai”.

2 “The Vision of the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil”, p.51: “If we want to take the way of enjoying God, we must have a change of concept... If we want to enter into the reality of the enjoyment of God, we must see a controlling vision...It was not until I was forty years of age that the Lord revealed to me the way of enjoying Him. I was disappointed that for twenty years most of my time and energy had been wasted. Most of my prayers were of no value, and the time that I had spent reading the Bible and other spiritual books was also of no value. This is when I realized that our way of working was wrong and that our way of spiritual pursuit was also wrong...Because I suffered a great loss from taking the wrong way, I do not want others to repeat the same mistake. I hope that others can take the way of enjoying God. I implore the saints to no longer take the wrong way. We should consider our former way of pursuit. We must have a drastic change of concept. We need to have a controlling vision”. **Prayer** Oh Lord Jesus, grace is God doing everything for us by giving Himself to us as our enjoyment. The result of this grace is the divine life. I have been paying attention to the miracles and outward things in the church life for many years and not paying too much attention to life. Lord Jesus, I repent before You thoroughly. In God's economy, nothing is more valuable than life. Let me take and walk the way of life from today.

CP2 The New Testament believers can be the same as Paul in functioning as the acting God

IC1 All during the apostle Paul's long and unfortunate imprisonment-voyage, the Lord kept him in His ascendancy and enabled him to live a life far beyond the realm of anxiety: [Acts 27:24](#) ...Do not fear, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you. **a** This life was fully dignified, with the highest standard of human virtues expressing the most excellent divine attributes, a life that resembled the one that the Lord Jesus Himself had lived on the earth years before. **2** The New Testament believers can be the same as Paul in functioning as the acting God.

Throughout the voyage and now on the island of Malta Paul certainly was walking in the Spirit. He surely lived a life that was the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and ascended Christ. Paul's living was actually the expression of the life-giving Spirit. In every situation of his daily living, Paul was the expression of the very Christ he preached. He preached the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and ascended Christ as the life-giving Spirit, and on the island of Malta he lived such a Christ as the all-inclusive Spirit. This is indicated by Paul's word, written later, in [Philippians 1:20-21a](#): "According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death. For to me, to live is Christ..." ...As we read Luke's account of Paul's living, we see that his living was the all-inclusive Spirit as the consummation of the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and God-exalted Christ.

Application to business persons/graduate students

[Act.28:7](#) Now in the vicinity of that place were the lands of the leading man of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us and gave us hospitality three days in a friendly way. **8** And the father of Publius was lying down sick with fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him, and having prayed and laid his hands on him, healed him. **10** They also honored us with many honors; and as we put out to sea, they put on board the things for our needs. **FN** On the sea in the storm, the Lord had made the apostle not only the owner of his fellow voyagers but also their life-guarantor and comforter. Now, on the land in peace, the Lord made him furthermore not only a magical attraction in the eyes of the superstitious people but also a healer and a joy to them. All during the apostle's long and

unfortunate imprisonment-voyage, the Lord kept the apostle in His ascendancy and enabled him to live a life far beyond the realm of anxiety. This life was fully dignified, with the highest standard of human virtues expressing the most excellent divine attributes, a life that resembled the one that the Lord Himself had lived on the earth years before. This was Jesus living again on the earth in His divinely enriched humanity! This was the wonderful, excellent, and mysterious God-man, who lived in the Gospels, continuing to live in the Acts through one of His many members! This was a living witness of the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and God-exalted Christ! Paul in his voyage lived and magnified Christ. It is no wonder that the people honored him and his companions with many honors, that is, with the greatest respect and highest regard! An ambassador sent by God should be treated by men with such respect and regard.

Testimony I would like to testify that the enjoyment and experience of Christ was enriched and uplifted when the standard was set on "the enjoyment of life leads to ruling in life." After witnessing the chaos in the company, I was forced and began to learn to rule over the chaos, as a king in life.

While working on a project on the development of the new product, a serious problem arose in the quality of the new product. The head of the department and the section manager who were in charge of quality could not solve the problem, so the president asked me to solve it. They relied on external consultant at the same time. I was not an expert, but I prayed to the Lord and took on this task to bear the Lord's testimony in my company. I was determined in the Lord with the burden to solve this problem. In the end, after about three months, I was able to solve the problem. The external consultant firm was very surprised and greatly admired my abilities. Previously, I was not interested in the fact that enjoyment of life leads to rule, and because of this unbelief, I had little experience of ruling in life. But then I repented, desired to rule the chaos in the Lord's life and came to the experience of ruling according to God's economy.

Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, Paul was a prisoner, but he actually ruled the storm and the people around him. Paul was the acting God who reigned in life. I can function and reign as the acting God, just like Paul. But what hinders this is unbelief, the indifference to the enjoyment of life which leads to reign. I repent and confess the sin of unbelief. Please make me the acting God who reigns in life.