

## A Determined Mother The Faith Fight

### 2 Kings 4:8-10 NIV - The Shunammite's Son Restored to Life

<sup>8</sup>One day Elisha went to Shunem. And ***a well-to-do woman*** was there, who urged him to stay for a meal. So whenever he came by, he stopped there to eat. <sup>9</sup>She said to her husband, ***"I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God."*** <sup>10</sup>Let's make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us."

- The Shunammite woman realized that ***Elisha was a man of God***, and ***so she prepared a room for him to use*** whenever he was in town.
- She did this ***out of kindness*** and because ***she sensed a need***, ***not for any selfish motives.***
- Soon, however, ***her kindness would be rewarded*** ***far beyond her wildest dreams.***
- ***We*** also should ***look for ways to serve others!***

### 2 Kings 4:11-14 - NIV

<sup>11</sup>One day when Elisha came, he went up to his room and lay down there.

<sup>12</sup>He said to his servant Gehazi, "Call the Shunammite." So he called her, and she stood before him.

<sup>13</sup>Elisha said to him, "Tell her, 'You have gone to all this trouble for us. ***Now what can be done for you?*** Can we speak on your behalf to the king or the commander of the army?'"

She replied, ***"I have a home among my own people."***

<sup>14</sup>***"What can be done for her?"*** Elisha asked.

Gehazi said, ***"She has no son, and her husband is old."***

**1 Timothy 6:11-12 NKJV - The Good Confession** - <sup>11</sup>But you, O man of God, ***flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.*** <sup>12</sup>***Fight the good fight of faith***, lay hold on eternal life, to which ***you were also called and have confessed*** the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Paul uses active and forceful verbs to describe the Christian life: Flee, pursue, fight, take hold...

- Some think **Christianity is passive**, advocating that **we have to wait for God to act**.
- On the contrary, **we must have an active faith, training, working hard, sacrificing, and doing what we know God wants**.

**Many of the responsibilities that Christians have can be very stressful**. Medical research shows that **stress is a major cause of multiple illnesses**.

**However, I challenge you to name one single vocation, position, or responsibility more stressful than motherhood**.

In April of 2015, during **the Baltimore riots**, one woman was dubbed **“Mother of the Year”** for **her response to finding her son aiding in the riots**.

- The woman was captured on camera **slapping the young man**, dressed in all black riot gear, and marching him away from the police.
- As you can image, the scene went viral online quickly.

**This video** showcased **an act of correction** that has become **foreign to our society**. Anyone’s child can be mischievous, but this is where **parents need to stand firm**. Where are the **parents who are not ashamed** to take the appropriate action **to protect their children?**

**We live in a sin-filled, lawless society that is headed in a downward spiral**

**We need God fearing parents** that **are not afraid** to **raise the next generation** in the **fear and admonishment** of the Lord, **regardless of how unpopular it has become**.

**Regardless** of what anyone says, **resisting Satan’s temptations** is a battle that must be fought continually.

**Satan is a deceitful demon** that waits patiently for you to **let your guard down**.

**We need to claim the victory** - And **they overcame him** **by the blood of the Lamb** and **by the word of their testimony**, and they did not love their lives to the death.

***In the 4th chapter of 2 Kings, there's a Shunammite woman that's a candidate for the next Mother of the Year award.***

- She's a faith filled, blood bought, woman ***whose made up her mind***;
- She will fight to hell and back before she ***allows Satan to take her child***.

**Timothy 3:12 NIV - Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**

**We don't have all the things we need to fight against Satan on our own.**

- **With the aid of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ**
- **The appropriate blessings are provided for us to make it through the situations we are presented.**

**When Satan sees you reaching to God for help, His first inclination is going to be to try to stop you from *harnessing and utilizing God's power*.**

- You weren't on Satan's radar until he seen **God blessing your life**.

**In 2 Kings, The Shunammite is described as a great woman**

- **She's content**, even though nothing is perfect, and her only desire is to be a blessing to the man of God.
- She started ***inviting the man of God*** over for dinner and every time he was in town, she would make him a fine meal.
- Then she decided to **make a place for the man of God** to stay when he passed through.

***When you start caring about others; it gets God's attention***

**Ephesians 6:8 NIV <sup>8</sup> because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.**

***Elisha told his servant, "See if the woman needs anything."***

- She said, ***"I live among my own people."***
- But Gehazi noticed and said, "the woman doesn't have any children and her husband is old."

***When un-fulfillment gets revealed, it wakes up my faith!***

- It keeps me **moving forward!**
- Look at somebody and tell them, ***"I can't go back now!"***

**2 Kings 4:15-16 NIV** <sup>15</sup> Then Elisha said, "Call her." So, he called her, and she stood in the doorway. <sup>16</sup> "About this time next year," Elisha said, "you will hold a son in your arms." "No, my lord!" she objected. "Please, man of God, don't mislead your servant!"

In other words, she said ***"Alright, man of God, don't you play with me!"***

***When God shows up and gives you a blessing, you must keep moving forward, you cannot go backwards.***

**2 Kings 4:17,20 NIV**

<sup>17</sup> But the woman became pregnant, and the next year about that same time she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her.

<sup>20</sup> After the servant had lifted him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died.

**Sometimes the calamity that happens in life did not come to discourage, but rather, it came to wake up the fighter that God put inside you.**

**You're not going to be a candidate for the ***"Mother of the Year"*** award if you just go along with the program.**

- There must be **a kingdom warrior awakened inside of you** that puts hell on notice!
- **Devil, you're not going to** take another blessing from me!

**Matthew 11:12 NKJV** "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

**2 Kings 4:24-28** – <sup>24</sup> She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Lead on; don't slow down for me unless I tell you." <sup>25</sup> So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

When he saw her in the distance, the man of God said to his servant Gehazi, “Look! There’s the Shunammite! <sup>26</sup> Run to meet her and ask her, ‘**Are you all right?** Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?’” “**Everything is all right,**” she said.

<sup>27</sup> When she reached the man of God at the mountain, she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came over to push her away, but the man of God said, “Leave her alone! She is in bitter distress, but the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me why.” <sup>28</sup> “**Did I ask you for a son, my lord?**” she said. “**Didn’t I tell you, ‘Don’t raise my hopes?’**”

Here are four traits of a Mother Fighter:

**1. The Shunammite woman harnessed her emotion.**

- **Don’t** let the devil see you sweat! **God is on your side!**

**2. Stay faithful in God’s promises.**

- **Don’t expect** anything short of God’s promises to happen.
- Although the Shunammite woman was in an emotional battle, she stated, “**It shall be well!**”

**3. Have a sense of urgency to get to someone that can agree with you with a Word from God to overturn the problem.**

- She told the servant saddle an ass and drive, and go forward; and slack not thy riding, except I tell you too.
- **She was on a mission...**

**4. You must have a determination to win.**

- **Jacob wrestled** with an angel all night to the breaking of day and said, I will not let go, except thou bless me.

**2 Kings 4:29-37** <sup>29</sup> Elisha said to Gehazi, “Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. Don’t greet anyone you meet, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy’s face.”

<sup>30</sup> But the child’s mother said, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So he got up and followed her.

<sup>31</sup> Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound or response. So Gehazi went back to meet Elisha and told him, "The boy has not awakened."

<sup>32</sup> ***When Elisha reached the house***, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. <sup>33</sup> He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD. <sup>34</sup> Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy's body grew warm. <sup>35</sup> Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out on him once more. **The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.**

<sup>36</sup> Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." And he did. When she came, he said, "Take your son." <sup>37</sup> ***She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.***

**Elisha's prayer and method of raising the dead boy show God's personal care for hurting people.**

- We must express **genuine concern for others** as we carry God's message to them.
- Only then **will we faithfully represent** our compassionate Father in Heaven.

**CLOSE: This Shunammite woman qualifies for "Mother of the Year," because she was determined –**

- ***If God gave her the child, He would also be able to use the man of God to resurrect the child!***

***It's time for the church to send a message,***

- If we must drag them off the corner, **we will not lose any more children** to an unjust society.
- ***We need some mothers of the year to stand and say, "if I must fight; bring it on!"***

**I'm more than a conqueror through him that loves me. Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world! ***If God be for me, who can be against!***"**