

LIVING A LIFE OF DOUBLE PORTION: "THE LEGACY" — Part III

by Carter Conlon

After receiving the double portion, Elisha returned over the Jordan, which represents the things that obstruct us from becoming all that God has called us to be. He returned from this journey in the power of God, and began to live a life that was an expression and outflow of the inward power of God's presence. You and I can do everything that Elisha did. We may not necessarily do things as spectacularly as he did, but the premise is the same. The result is the same. Everything he did, God has given us the ability to do in Christ. The double portion begins with the quest, and the quest has to be honest. If you don't have an honest search for God, what I am about to speak won't really have any bearing on your life. It will just be information gleaned along the way. The legacy is basically what remains after we've gone.

"What Will People Say About My Life After I'm Gone?"

■ THE QUESTION

2 Kings 13:20-21: *"And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year. And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulcher (grave) of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet."*

I want to show you that your testimony, which is seen in the type of Elisha's bones, will still speak after you're gone. We have to ask ourselves a question, which I have asked many times in my own life. What will people say about my life after I'm gone? Will

there be a lingering presence of Christ? Will the memory of my life inspire people to live for God or will I just be a vapor that appears for a time, and then is gone from the sight and hearing of men forever? In heaven, I will be eternally happy—I know that, but what about those that come after me? Is there any way my life can affect them? Is it possible that God, as with Elisha, will still give life through me after I'm in the grave? It should be the desire of every Christian to say, "Lord God, take hold of my life, so that it is not just a testimony for you now, but will continue to bring life after I'm gone. And as the dead man touched the bones of Elisha and lived, may others also 'fall upon my bones,' and find life in Jesus Christ."

■ THE TESTIMONY THAT STILL SPEAKS

Hebrews 11:4 says, *"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh."*

These two men offering sacrifices to God are a type of the different lives lived for the Lord Jesus Christ. There are degrees and levels of commitment and passion for the things of God and for worship. God accepted Abel's sacrifice, and testified of how pleased he was, by giving him a voice that still speaks to us today, even after his death. This was also Elisha's testimony and living proof that even after death his remains were still giving life.

■ THE DEVIL SEEKS TO DESTROY YOUR LEGACY

Psalm 94:1-5 says, *"O Lord God, to*

whom vengeance belongeth; O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, show thyself. Lift up thyself, thou judge of the earth: render a reward to the proud. Lord, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph? How long shall they utter and speak hard things? and all the workers of iniquity boast themselves? They break in pieces thy people, O Lord, and afflict thine heritage."

The Psalmist is asking God, the Judge of all the earth, "How long will the wicked continue to have the last word? How long will they utter and speak hard things, boasting about themselves and afflicting His heritage?" In the Hebrew, the word "afflict" means they look down upon, they browbeat; they depress and weaken your heritage. How long will that go on? How long will you let the wicked triumph?

Psalm 78:2-7: *"I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us... For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God..."*

Even though God's people were being afflicted and attacked by the enemy, the power of the wicked was broken as they set their hope on the testimonies of God handed down to them. In spite of what is going on, the Psalmist is saying, "I have a foundation, I have a

heritage. No matter how dark it is, no matter how difficult the days may be, I have something to stand on, because of what my fathers told me. Not just my father, but my fathers." Verse four says, "We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done." It is the desire of my heart, along with the Psalmist, that my life will be a testimony, even up to four generations after me. They will have my memoirs after I die, and will know the strength I had found in Christ; how I learned to praise and trust Him with confidence and quiet worship. They will know about the wonderful works that He and He alone had done—it will be my testimony.

"Your Life Is A Living Testimony To Everybody Around You"

■ A LIVING TESTIMONY WRITTEN IN A BOOK

Deuteronomy 6:1-2, 4-7: *"Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart,*

I BELIEVE EVERYTHING ELISHA DID, WE CAN DO AS WELL.

You don't have to give up your children. You don't have to say your marriage is finished. You don't have to let the devil into your house. Stand and take authority in the name of Jesus Christ.

and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

This is the testimony of a man or woman who is a true seeker of God. It is not only about being able to quote Scripture, but rather, being a living testimony of the life of Christ, the One who is changing you into His image from glory to glory by the Spirit of God. You are changing and living in the miraculous. You are seeing God make provision for a fallen society through your life and ministry. You know that God is multiplying your influence far beyond your natural ability. You are speaking of these things in your house and those around you are hearing it. They are being encouraged; they are being moved to a place of faith, out of the limitations of human mediocrity into this supernatural realm of Almighty God. They are being changed from living a life of selfishness to a selfless life, which is the life of Christ reaching out into the arena of human need. They are moving there because there is a frame of reference—your godly influence in the house. And this is for everybody—for the single mom, for the struggling parent, and for the teenager who is the only Christian in his house. You are growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ, moving forward in the divine life of God. You have this double portion upon you, and your life is a living testimony to everybody around you.

■ THE DOOR POSTS OF YOUR HOUSE

"And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates" (Verse 9).

You may have had a hard life and you are saying to me today, "What could I write on the posts of my house?" Your life is no worse than Job's. He said,

"Oh that my words were now written! Oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever! For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold..." (Job 19:23-27). Even if

you are a struggling Christian, you have this inner knowledge, *"Yes, my life is hard, but I know my Redeemer lives, and because of Him, I will come through this. I know I will see Jesus someday, because He has sown this hope deep within me."* You can write that on the doorposts of your house.

1) A Personal Testimony

Ps 90:9b: *"...we spend our years as a tale that is told."*

Once in a while, I enjoy a walk through a graveyard. As I walk through these graveyards, I look and wonder what these dead people's lives had meant. Did they leave stepping-stones for others to build on? What did they leave behind them? Or maybe I see another grave and wonder why it is so neglected. Was there nothing there for people to cherish? Did this person not leave a memory that somebody could hold dear? And with this burial there are bones, but these bones will never speak of a testimony that can give life. I wonder how many people would have done differently if they were given the chance, or maybe their priorities were wrong. Strangers may well soon be standing at our graveside, should the Lord tarry. These people may say, "Who was Carter Conlon? I wonder what he did." Or maybe relatives not yet born, perhaps a great-grandson or great-granddaughter may one day stand at your grave and wonder who you were, what you believed, how you lived, and what your core values were. Will anything that we have left behind be able to give them life? I believe it's a question that serious Christians have to ask in our generation.

2) A Parent's Testimony

The Holy Spirit burdened me about two years ago and I asked my father and mother to write down their memoirs. Both my parents' memoirs were written, and are in a book in my house. They are there for my children, my grandchildren, and those who are not yet born. My father, whom I had the privilege of leading to the Lord shortly before he died, wrote one last thing in his memoir: "And now until tomorrow you will keep on smiling, won't you? Remember, God is in heaven, and all will yet be well with the world." Even though my dad was not a Christian at the time of his writing, the words in his memoir are full of wisdom. He talked about commitment to family, honesty, and very deep issues and core values he had come to believe in. I would not have known these things had he not written them down. My mother was a Christian, so there is a difference in what she wrote. Here is an example, "I am your mother, your grandmother, your great-grandmother and on into the future. You are my children, my grandchildren, my great-grandchildren and future unborn generations. I cherish and I love all of you." She concludes this passage with these words, *"This is the message that you have heard from the beginning that we should love one another"* (1 John 3:11). And last of all, "When the evening sun is setting on the path that you have trod, may your name in gold be written in the autobiography of God." My son, Jason, was reading this to me over the phone, and said to me, "Dad, this is really something that we have this." He felt that way because his grandparents had left something for him; it was a lot more than a piece of furniture or money in the bank. My parents had left a memoir that he could build his life on—a heritage of tremendous wisdom.

3) No Written Testimony

My grandfather on my father's side was a judge. He died when I was about three years of age. I'm told that he was a very good speaker and greatly in demand at public functions. He was very witty and had lots of good

things to say. As a judge, no doubt he would have had hundreds of people who were in trouble stand before him. He would have had tremendous words of advice for them, but unfortunately he left nothing for me, not a poem or a letter. I can't help but wonder, although he wasn't a Christian in the measure that I know Christ, could not the things he'd learned and the advice he had undoubtedly given to hundreds who were in trouble, be given to me? Could he not at least have written something down for his grandchildren? I think about my troubled teenage years, when I felt worthless, just a "nobody" going nowhere. All of the fears and frustrations of life began to press in, depressing me and in measure making me angry. If I had been given something from my grand-

HOW IS YOUR LIFE IN CHRIST IMPACTING OTHERS?

father, do you think it might have made a difference? I believe it would have. With all my heart I believe I would have read his words over and over again, even if it were only a letter, a page, or a paragraph. Let me ask you a question: "Is it possible that God designed us to be interconnected with our forefathers?" I cannot change my family's past, or the loss I feel at not having my grandfather's memoirs, so it does provoke me to not end my life in the same way. I don't want future generations to arise after me not knowing who I was or what I believed in, and not have some words from my pen, hand or voice to help govern their lives and guide them.

4) Israel's Testimony

History shows us one of the main reasons why the Jewish culture has survived many thousands of years of persecution. It was the very fabric of their culture to impart what they believed to the future generations. Because of this, the voice of the father or mother

was much stronger than outside influences. Unless you have that foundation, the enemy can come in like a flood with all kinds of discouragement. We need to understand that children are a heritage from the Lord, and we have a God-given responsibility to preserve that heritage.

■ THE BONES OF ELISHA GIVE LIFE

2 Kings 13:20: "...and they cast the man into the sepulcher of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet."

One historian tells us that there was an incredible funeral for Elisha. However, Elisha was dead, and a new season of plunder by the Moabites had begun. They traveled very deep into the heart of where the people of God lived. A band of men, while carrying a dead man for burial, saw the Moabites coming, and threw him into a cave, only to have him land on the bones of Elisha. As he landed on the bones of a man who had a double portion of God upon him, he sprang back to life.

I want you to imagine that it is the year 2065 in New York City, and you are dead. Your descendants, a great-grandson, grand-nephew, or grand-niece have a fourth cousin visiting them, who is maybe a drug addict. He is despondent, depressed, and spiritually dead. As he sits down, his hand falls on a notebook passed down to the family by you. His eyes scan a bookshelf and there are memoirs of many of your relatives from back in 2005 in New York City. He pulls them off the shelf and begins to read. As he reads he stands to his feet and says, "If God could give that kind of life to my ancestors, He can give the same life to me." This man is given hope because he "fell on your bones." He read about the Christ you loved and served, and in reality touched your bones and touched the anointing of God that was on your life. Thank God for the time you took to write it down!

Elisha asked for the double portion of the Spirit of God that rested upon

Elijah. It was the firstborn son's portion. He received his request and walked in the same anointing as Elijah. Likewise, we learned this double portion is ours in Christ Jesus. We have already received the guarantee of our inheritance, but whether or not we go to the bank, as it were, and withdraw it, is a different story. It is yours for the asking if you are a believer in Jesus Christ. You have the firstborn son's inheritance, which is a part of the New Covenant. Everything the Father gave to the Son belongs to you and me—all the authority, the power, the supernatural life that raised Him from the dead—it is mine and it is yours.

The Hearts Of The Fathers Will Turn To The Children

■ RESTORING THE FAMILY

Malachi 4:1-2: *"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall."*

These verses in Malachi talk about a coming day that will burn like an oven—a day that will not leave root or branch of what is unholy. It speaks of a day when the Son of Righteousness will arise with healing in His wings. There will be a people who will come out of captivity and grow up as calves of the stalls—they will be given life. Then the scripture says in verses 5 and 6, *"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children*

to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

Remember, as the double portion of Elijah's spirit came upon Elisha, so the double portion belongs to the believer—it is yours and mine. This double portion that came from Elijah to Elisha is what comes from Christ to the church. The anointing will rise up in the believer in a day of destruction and they will stand up with healing in their wings and go out with new life. The hearts of the fathers will turn to the children and the children to the fathers. I am going to write a book before I die, and give it the title, *"Jesus Christ Unlimited."* It will be a story my kids and grandkids can read, so the hearts of future generations can be turned to God.

■ THE CONCLUSION

In conclusion, my questions are, "What is important to you, and where are you going? What are your priorities and what are you living for? Are you crying out for the anointing, and do you even understand what it is all about?" Is it not time to stop and deal with these important questions? If this is in your heart, then your journey begins by accepting God's wonderful provision of salvation through Jesus Christ. You are then adopted into the family of God, and you become His sons and daughters. His inheritance becomes yours. God gives you the power of the Holy Spirit, enabling you to live an effective, meaningful life in Christ. This will be a legacy you can write about—a life lived for God, a life that will touch future generations.

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TIMES SQUARE CHURCH

Times Square Church was founded in 1987 by Pastor David Wilkerson, author of *"The Cross and the Switchblade."* It is an interdenominational church located in the heart of New York City.

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday	10:00AM	3:00PM	6:00PM
Tuesday	7:00PM	Church Service	
Thursday	7:00PM	Intercessory Prayer	
Friday	7:00PM	Church Service	

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