

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Anointed - Part 6

Dale Stephenson

Introduction

The past few months have been filled with uncertainty. You may have felt stalled, stuck or even trapped, with no clear end in sight. Fortunately, we have a God who can and will bring about change in His time. Even when we can't see or feel it, God is at work before us. He is preparing the place of our next destination and is waiting for us to take our next step in His direction. In 2 Kings 7, Israel was stuck in captivity and famine, but God brought about change within twenty-four hours, through four men who were also stuck in their own hardship. 'Stepping out of being stuck' begins in the mind, with a thought that turns into action, and action that actively engages with the prompting that is from God.

Bible Passage

Reading: 2 Kings 7:1-20

Discussion

1. Read 2 Kings 6:24-33. God used Elisha to tell the King of Israel and his officer that the situation would change within twenty-four hours. They chose not to believe it. In the current climate that we live in, are you feeling stuck? Have you ever experienced a season where God's grace or direction for your future seemed far-fetched? Share your story.
2. Ps Dale mentions 'prevenient grace', the notion that the grace of God is active even before we get into a certain space, just as in 2 Kings 7:3-7. The four men with leprosy felt stuck in their situation and decided to take a step out. What situation do you currently feel stuck in? What does it look like for you to step out in faith? How could you do it?

(continued on next page)

3. Read Acts 20:22. Change begins with a thought that the Holy Spirit stirs inside us. How can we become more sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit? How do we distinguish God's prompting from our human desire
4. The four men got out of their state of stuck and enjoyed the miracle of God's provision, however they quickly realised their responsibility to share the good news. In much the same way, as believers we are called to be a conduit of the good news, rather than a bucket. When have you experienced unexpected provision from God? What can you do to share the good news of the Gospel with others around you?
5. The officer who doubted God didn't get a chance to taste and see His wonders, and the passage ends without the people recognising and worshipping God. How do you deal with doubts that threaten to overwhelm your faith in God? Is there an example of a recent blessing that you received but need to be more thankful for?

Respond

When we are in a 'state of stuck' we may feel afraid to make the first necessary steps to get out of it. Once the Holy Spirit stirs and moves in us, we need to be 'promptable'. The first step is often the hardest one, and should be bathed in prayer. Wherever you are at right now, whether you feel stuck or not, what is one thought that you want to bathe in prayer to enable the Holy Spirit to use you as a conduit for God's glory?