

GOD IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR NEED

2 Kings 4:1-7

Our God is present, in the middle of our need, and He is a help to the helpless.

- GOD'S PEOPLE, WHEN DESPERATE, HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF CRYING OUT TO HIM.

Now the wife of one of the sons of the prophets cried to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD, but the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves." ²And Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? 2 Kings 4:1-2a (English Standard Version)

With my voice I cry out to the LORD; with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD. ²I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him. Psalm 142:1-2 (ESV)

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. James 5:13a (New International Version)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our troubles, . . . 2 Corinthians 1:3-4a (NIV)

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)

- WHEN GOD PROVIDES FOR A NEED, HE OFTEN MAKES US PARTICIPANTS IN THAT PROVISION.

And Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me; what have you in the house?" And she said, "Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil." ³Then he said, "Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not too few. ⁴Then go in and shut the door behind yourself and your sons and pour into all these vessels. And when one is full, set it aside." ⁵So she went from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons. And as she poured they brought the vessels to her. ⁶When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another." Then the oil stopped flowing. 2 Kings 4:2-6 (ESV)

Typical Way in Which God Works in Our Lives

- God often begins His provision with the next-to-nothing that we have available.

We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. 2 Corinthians 1:8b-9 (NIV)

- God's provision often involves our faithful obedience.

- GOD'S KINDNESS OFTEN OVERFLOWS IN OUR LIVES.

She came and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest." 2 Kings 4:7 (ESV)

See also 2 Kings 4:8-37 and 1 Timothy 6:17.