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7-April-2021 Message 1 of 13

ESV 15 Minutes

**Power Up**

***2 Kings 2***

**Topic:** God’s empowerment

**Subject:** The manner by which God empowers us to do his work

**Complement:** is by different ways

**Purpose:** The listeners will be motivated to continue to do God’s work

**Intro:** Many of us here know the story of Moses’ calling in Exodus 3, right? God called Moses to speak to Pharaoh about letting the Israelites out of Egypt. But Moses repeatedly rejected because of different excuses even when God reassured Him several times. But at the end of Moses’ story, we saw the miracles he did and how God empowered Him. Despite his weaknesses and people’s judgment and criticism on him, he was able to accomplish God’s work.

1: Interest

Every time I remember or read this story, I can’t help but relate with Moses. I can’t blame him for rejecting God’s calling over and over again despite God’s reassurance and promises. I can’t blame him because I find myself in the same situation time and time again.

2: Need

How about you? Have you ever found yourself in the shoes of Moses? When God calls you to enter into a ministry that you know you’re not good at. When people express their doubts about your capabilities, and others ridicule you because of your work. Or when you find yourself in a difficult position in your ministry and you don’t know what to do, does that hinder you from doing God’s work? Like Moses, do you find reasons to avoid or quit from particular ministries?

3: Subject

How does God empower us to do His work? How does He help us in ministry?

Back in 1 Kings 19:16-19, God told Elijah that his successor would be Elisha. So when Elijah found Elisha, he put his cloak around Elisha. And Elisha followed Elijah ever since in his ministry witnessing the great miracles that he did. Now in the passage we will see today, the time has come for Elisha to succeed Elijah.

4: bckgrnd

5: Preview

Today’s text shows *how to have God’s empowerment*. Here we will see two ways that God qualified him for his tasks—and how he does the same for us when he calls us.

In the story of 2 Kings 2, we will see how Elisha received God’s empowerment.

6: Text

T, **MP1**

Let’s read 2 Kings 2:1-12. In this part of the story, we see that God’s empowerment takes perseverance to do His will.

R

God qualifies those He calls if they are willing to strive for it.

Verses 1-10 show that Elisha followed Elijah till the end even when Elijah asked him to stay.

SP “A”

Explanation

First in Gilgal, next in Bethel, and finally in Jericho. We can see how persistent he was when he replied Elijah three times “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.”

Elisha knew that Elijah’s time had almost come, and his time to succeed him was drawing near as well.

Elijah also knew. That was why he was visiting the sons of prophets he guided in those 3 towns. We don’t know what he said, it isn’t written in the passage. He might have given them final instructions and encouragement. That’s why the sons of the prophets suspected his death and inquired about it from Elisha.

We don’t specifically know why Elijah asked him to stay. Some say it was a test for Elisha, others say it’s because Elijah didn’t want Elisha to experience the pain of seeing his death. But for whatever reason, we see Elisha’s perseverance.

And in verse 9 we finally see the reason why Elisha wanted to follow Elijah till the end.

V9

“When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.’ And Elisha said, ‘Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.’”

Hermeneutics

(double portion)

Elisha wanted a “double portion” of Elijah’s spirit. What does this double portion mean? We know in earlier Bible times that double portion is usually given to the first-born sons as an inheritance. But this is more than just Elisha asking to be Elijah’s successor, because he already knew that he was the successor according to 1 Kings. What Elisha meant by the “double portion” is for Elijah to grant him spiritual power that’s beyond his capabilities so that he can fulfill the role that is given to him. He wanted Elijah’s spirit to continue to live through him because he felt scared and overwhelmed with the great responsibility he has to take.

Explanation

This is why Elisha followed Elijah till the end. He knew he was going to succeed Elijah but he didn’t know how he can do it. He was terrified. But he didn’t let fear grip his heart by staying. He didn’t run away from what’s to come. Instead, he persevered and faced it head on.

T

We then see in the following verses that perseverance is not enough to receive God’s empowerment, it must also be God’s will.

SP “B”

In verses 10-12 we see that God allowed Elisha to see Elijah being taken up, receiving his request for empowerment.

V10

After making the request, in verse 10 Elijah replied,

“‘You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.’”

Even if Elijah wanted to grant Elisha’s request, and even when Elisha persevered, it was still up to God’s will to grant empowerment.

But then we see in verse 11-12 that God allowed Elisha to see Elijah being taken up. And he was empowered.

ILL

There was a short period of time when I learned some basic drum patterns from an instructor. I learned for a year and had to stop. My church somehow knew about this and asked me to serve as a drummer in the worship service. I was scared to do it because I knew I lacked training and could barely play a song without mistakes. But because I loved to drum and wanted to serve God with it, I practiced frequently. It was difficult without a teacher because I didn’t know how to play other genres or learn new patterns. But I just kept practicing and kept praying for God to guide me and empower me as I drum. After a year or two of serving, I realized how much I had improved and how I miraculously was able to keep up with the demands of the song leader time after time.

APP

How about you? What’s the ministry that you find difficult to do? Do you strive hard and find ways to improve or do you just give up in despair? Do you consider doing it or do you dismiss it just because it’s difficult? There are times when you wonder “does God really want me to do this? Does he really want me here?” and a lot of times you ask this question because you yourself don’t want to do it because the task at hand seems impossible for you. Before you say “no”, or before you quit, think carefully about the reason behind your decision. Ask yourselves, “Am I quitting or saying “no” because God is calling me somewhere else, or because it’s just too hard and I don’t want to do it?”

We have seen how Elisha received God’s empowerment—through persevering to do his will; now we shall then see another way God empowers in verses 13-25. In these verses, it is shown that God empowers us in different ways.

T, **MP2**

R

God qualifies those He called in various means. Here we will see 4 different ways.

Vv13-14

First, in verses 13-14 it says (NLT):

Elisha picked up Elijah’s cloak, which had fallen when he was taken up. Then Elisha returned to the bank of the Jordan River. 14 He struck the water with Elijah’s cloak and cried out, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” Then the river divided, and Elisha went across.

Explanation

SB “A”

Here we see that God enabled Elisha to part the Jordan river. Elisha asked “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” He was not actually asking as if he did not know, but he asked and did the same miracle that Elijah did at the same time to proclaim that God has not abandoned but is now with him as God was with Elijah. And to be accredited in front of the 50 sons of prophets waiting on the other side of the Jordan. Elisha was able to part the waters because of God’s enabling.

Vv13-14

Second, in verses 15-18 it says (NLT):

When the group of prophets from Jericho saw from a distance what happened, they exclaimed, Elijah’s spirit rests upon Elisha!” And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him. 16 “Sir,” they said, “just say the word and fifty of our strongest men will search the wilderness for your master. Perhaps the Spirit of the LORD has left him on some mountain or in some valley.”

“No,” Elisha said, “don’t send them.”

17 But they kept urging him until they shamed him into agreeing, and he finally said, “All right, send them.” So fifty men searched for three days but did not find Elijah. 18 Elisha was still at Jericho when they returned. “Didn’t I tell you not to go?” he asked.

SB “B”

Even when the sons of the prophets acknowledge that Elisha had Elijah’s spirit, they still did not believe his words when he told them not to look for Elijah. They were so insistent that Elisha finally succumbed in embarrassment and allowed it. But then we see Elisha being justified when the sons of the prophets came back after 3 days. Elisha was able to say, “I told you so!” God justified Elisha. It was because of God’s power that Elijah completely vanished, not leaving a body. The prophets may not have believed Elisha and have may have made him embarrassed, but in the end, God was proven right about taking him to heaven.

Explanation

So in this text we are seeing how God empowers us to do His work. How does He help us in ministry? We have seen that God’s empowerment takes perseverance to do His will—plus he empowers us in different ways. Now let’s move on to the third way God qualifies us...

In verse 19-22 it says,

Vv19-22

**19**Now the men of the city said to Elisha, “Behold, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees, but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful.” **20**He said, “Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it.” So they brought it to him. **21**Then he went to the spring of water and threw salt in it and said, “Thus says the Lord, I have healed this water; from now on neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it.” **22**So the water has been healed to this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke.

SB “C”

We see here that God showed Elisha how to heal the water. Have you ever wondered how he knew what to do and what to put for the water to be healed? Did he just guess it? (enact Elisha) “Ummm I think salt will be good, since salt is used to purify. A new bowl will also be good because it symbolizes new beginnings. That should be good, then let’s go with that.” Did he do it like that? Although the Bible did not mention God telling Elisha what to do, we have seen time and time again from other prophets, that God instructs them what to do to accomplish miracles. Like the LORD instructing Moses how to make the Nile river to blood, part the Red Sea, or make the waters of Meribah sweet. God was the one who instructed. And here we can see that God gave Elisha the wisdom how to heal the water.

Explanation

SB “D”

This last way God qualified Elisha is *God provided justice* for Elisha.

In verses 23-25 in says,

Vv23-25

**23**He went up from there to Bethel, and while he was going up on the way, some small boys came out of the city and jeered at him, saying, “Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!” **24**And he turned around, and when he saw them, he cursed them in the name of the Lord. And two she-bears came out of the woods and tore forty-two of the boys. **25**From there he went on to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

Hermeneutics

(small boys)

How many of you are bewildered by Elisha’s action here? How could he have killed 42 small boys who were just harmlessly having fun? Well, let’s see if that’s really the case. There are 2 Hebrew words for boys, *gatan* and *yeled*, used in this verse. Both can mean “boy” or even “young boy”, but can also mean “adolescent” or “older teenager”. Both words were even used for Benjamin, Joseph’s brother when he was in his 20s. Since the word has a broad range of meaning, let’s look at the context. Who would let their little children hang out in the wilderness together without adult supervision? I’m guessing none. But a group of teenagers would be more possible to do that. So I believe that these were not small boys but actually teenagers, based on the context.

Hermeneutics

(cultural context, “go up”)

In the culture of the Middle East today, insults against leaders, rulers, or kings could be severely punished. And I believe it is the same during their time. So in cultural context, his behavior is nothing out of the ordinary. It can also be noted that their taunt for him to “go up” can mean the same as cursing him to die. Because they want him to join Elijah, who also went up.

We can see towards the end of the verse that God provided justice for Elisha by punishing the boys using the bear.

We saw how God justifies and gives justice.

ILL

When I was serving as a drummer, there was this accompanist who always complained about my performance and she would say it in a hurtful way. There was a time she asked me if I was still getting lessons. Because of her there were many times when I wanted to quit. But for some reason I didn’t. Many people encouraged me and after a year I got a bit better, so she also stopped complaining.

APP

Many times, we question God’s justice and we feel unheard. When we experience injustice and suffering, we do not see justification. Just like missionaries who are persecuted or killed. Where is God’s justice for them? But we know that God is just and He will judge each one according to his own deed. It says in 2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.” Are you discouraged by people with their hurtful comments? Is there any incident that really struck you that people told you that make you want to quit? Be still and know that God hears, sees, and He will judge one way or another.

In all this we saw that God enables and gives wisdom.

When God first put the burden of full-time ministry in my heart, I really wrestled with God. Initially it wasn’t even because I was scared, but because I literally thought that God was playing a joke on me. I said, “God, are you kidding? You know I don’t like any form of interaction with people. You must have the wrong person.” I was nowhere near being sociable, I was terrified of the idea of talking and meeting people. I’m also terrible with academics and ineloquent. Not only that but I consider myself as someone who needed to support my family. I was somewhat the only person my family could depend on. So going to full-time ministry would mean I would not be able to do that. God must really have the wrong person, I thought. I even said I’d do anything but this. But after a few years of wresting, I finally surrendered. Hey, that’s why I’m here right? But the story isn’t over. From the moment I surrendered to now, I have seen how God enabled me socially and academically. I’m no longer as terrified to socialize as I was before. And I’m still surviving the daily and weekly battles with requirements. God also gives me wisdom in how to handle problems, most especially with dealing with people. Giving me wisdom on the words to say, when to say yes or when to say no, when to apologize, and how to encourage and comfort.

ILL

APP

How about you? What are you haggling with God today? That thing you don’t want to do because you feel like you’re not qualified enough. That task you want to let go off because you’re too tired and you don’t know how to continue. You’re tired of all the readings, papers and projects and you don’t know how you’re going to survive another semester or even another week. Or maybe you’re in-charge of people or have to serve with people and you just don’t know how to get along with them. God can enable you and give you the wisdom that you need to do it or to press on.

T, **Conclusion**:

So what did we learn from Elisha’s story today? We learned that…..

MI

God empowers us to do His work in different ways.

MPs

Let us remember that God’s empowerment takes perseverance and His will. And His empowerment enables, justifies, gives wisdom, and provides justice.

Exhortation

So what is that burden that you are struggling with? Why are you hesitant to do what God is calling you to do? What worries and reservations do you have? God already has his answer for you. He will empower you to go and overcome the obstacles. The question is, are you willing to trust Him?

# Study Questions (Step 1)

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### The story about Elijah denouncing Ahaziah. Ahaziah, the King of Israel, had an accident and sent messengers to inquire Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, if he will recover. And because of this, God was angry with him and told him that he shall surely die and was succeeded by another King not his own son because he had no son.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### This passage is in the Bible to show that when God calls us to do his work, probably as a succession to the older generation who already did great things, He will also empower us.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### The books of Kings continue the story of kingship begun in Samuel, and their primary purpose is to record the “covenant failure” of the Hebrew united and divided monarchies. The biblical narrative implicitly balances the notion of God’s sovereignty and the reality of human freedom and declares that God was justified in exiling his people for the failure of the kings of Israel and Judah to uphold the ideals of the Davidic covenant.

### The prophetic function is not to be seen as related to an office in the professional sense. To be sure, there are to “my/his servants the prophets” emphasize the continuing nature of the prophetic tradition. But the OT makes clear that this tradition is created by the will of God and through the call of God, not by inheritance.

# Sources Used

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# Questions & Answers (cf. p. 22 #1)

### Why did Elijah keep asking Elisha to stay?

#### It must have been that little touch of tenderness from the tough old prophet. He wanted to spare Elisha and the young men the pain of seeing him leave. Furthermore, he didn’t want his departure to be a self-aggrandizing spectacle. He knew God was going to perform some kind of miracle to bring his earthly life to an end, and he didn’t want to “show off” in this final event.

#### The polite form of Elijah’s command indicates that the prophet’s words were permissive rather than prohibitive. The reason for the command is not explicatively stated. Elijah no doubt knew that this was the day God would take him to be with himself and that he would leave his work to others – especially Elisha. Perhaps he sought an assurance of the Lord’s will with regard to that succession by putting Elisha to the test. More likely the test was primarily for the strengthening of Elisha’s faith.

### Why didn’t Elisha stay when Elijah told him to do so?

#### Elisha’s persistence ensures that a witness is present at both the ascension and the sign of succession.

#### Elisha either knew from separate divine communication or strongly suspected that this day might be Elijah’s last. Strongly desirous of God’s will for his life and concerned that he would indeed succeed Elijah as the Lord’s prophet to Israel, Elisha was determined to be with his tutor until the last.

### Why did the sons of the prophets kept asking Elisha about Elijah’s death?

#### The company of prophetic students perhaps wondered whether this would be the expected day. Not wishing to impose themselves on Elijah, they delicately drew Elisha aside to inquire of Elijah whether this was that day.

### Why did Elisha ask a double portion of Elijah’s spirit?

#### The phrase “a double share” is found elsewhere in Deut 21:17 and indicates that Elisha is asking for the status as rightful heir to the prophetic leader’s role. The phrase indicates twice as much as any other heir, not double the amount that Elijah had. The persistence of Elisha is now given explanation. His right to the succession is dependent upon his witnessing the departure of his master.

#### Although it has often been interpreted in this way, Elisha was not asking for twice as much of the prophetic spirit as Elijah had possessed. He was not asking to be twice as powerful as his predecessor. Instead, his request relates to the custom in Deut. 21:17 where the firstborn son was entitled to a double share of the father’s estate, while the younger sons received only a single share. Elisha wanted to be designated as Elijah’s rightful heir, receiving double what the other prophets would get as a signal that he would now be their “lead prophet”.

#### Undoubtedly, Elisha did not ask this simply for the privilege of being Elijah’s successor in terms of the Deuteronomic legislation concerning the eldest son’s inheritance, for such both he and Elijah knew him to be. Nor was this simply to give some confirmatory sign for Elisha’s appearance, for this is scarcely a “difficult thing”. Rather, the enormity of the loss of Elijah, that spirit-filled and empowered prophet, must have so gripped the humble Elisha that, claiming his position as first born, he asked for the firstborn’s “double portion” – that is, for especially granted spiritual power far beyond his own capabilities to meet the responsibilities of the awesome task that lay before him. He wished, virtually, that Elijah’s mighty prowess might continue to live through him.

### Why did Elijah say that the answer to Elisha’s request depended upon seeing his taking?

#### Elijah acknowledged that only God could grant such a request. If Elisha was permitted by God to see Elijah when he was taken away, that would be a sign that God had granted his request to become the successor to Elijah.

#### All this lay beyond Elijah’s power to grant. Nonetheless it was not beyond the divine prerogative. Indeed, doubtless by divine direction, Elijah told Elisha that if God so chose to allow Elisha to see Elijah’s translation, then (and only then) would the full force of Elisha’s request be granted.

### What did it mean when the boys said “Go up, you baldhead!”?

#### The public insult against Elisha was aimed ultimately at the God whom he represented. Indeed Elisha’s whole prophetic ministry was in jeopardy; therefore the taunt had to be dealt with decisively. The sudden arrival of the two bears who mailed 42 youths to death would serve as both an awful sentence on unbelievers – and thus, too, on Jeroboam’s cult city – and a published reminder that blasphemy against the true God and his program would be met with swift and certain consequences.

### Why were the 2 miracles found after Elisha succeeded Elijah?

#### These miracles immediately established the character of Elisha’s ministry – his would be a helping ministry to those in need, but one that would brook no disrespect for God and his earthly representatives. With the two miracles, Elisha’s position as successor to Elijah as God’s chief prophet to Israel was assured.

### Why did Elisha ask “Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?” right before he struck the waters of the Jordan?

#### Repeating Elijah’s actions, he cried out for divine intervention on his behalf. Once again the Jordan parted, bringing not only full confirmation of his prophetic office to Elisha, but divine accreditation for him before the eyes of the 50 students who had witnessed the entire event.

#### Elisha made a statement that was not so much a question as a solemn invocation. The implied answer, dramatized by the miraculous opening up of the river, was: “He has not abandoned us; He is now with Elisha as He was with Elijah.”

### Why did the sons of the prophets insist to look for Elijah’s body?

#### Although they saw the whirlwind, they did not perceive it as the miraculous vehicle for Elijah’s translation. It appeared to them that a mighty “dust devil,” a natural whirlwind, had picked Elijah and no doubt had dropped him as a helpless victim on the side of a rugged mountain or a hidden canyon.

#### Others interpret it to mean that the sons of the prophets believed the Elijah, in a spiritual trance, had accidentally fallen from a precipice. “Perhaps the Spirit of the Lord has taken him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some valley.”

#### Still others hold that these seminarians understood that the soul of Elijah had been taken up into heaven but thought that his body was left somewhere in the wilderness and should be found and properly buried.

* Based on the previous verses of the sons of the prophets asking Elisha about Elijah’s death, it can be assumed that they already knew that Elijah is dead. So I think that perspective c is correct. (2:15-18)

### What does the narrative about healing of the water and the death of the 42 boys mean?

#### Characteristic of this genre is a marvelous story demonstrating the scope and nature of the prophet’s power, the purpose of which is to identify a particular prophet as genuine.

#### The common theme in the first pair of stories is of sickness and healing. In the one, the king seeks out a foreign god to ask to be healed; in the other, the men of Jericho seek Elisha’s help. Both situations are greeted with a word of God – in the first a word of judgment and death, in the second a word of healing. Both stories end with a fulfillment formula “and he died according to the word of Yahweh which Elijah spoke” (1:17a); “and the waters are clear even to this day, according to the word which Elisha spoke” (2:22). There appears to be a deliberate link between the fact that Ahaziah dies without progeny, and the original state of the land which Elisha heals.

#### In the second pair of stories 3 points of similarity are worth noting. In both a challenge is offered to the status of the prophet. In 1:9-15 Elijah is ordered by the king to “come down” and in the second Elisha is taunted by the boys to “go up”. The response in both is drastic and decisive. Death comes, but through a third party, the agent of judgment. The syntax of each description of the judgment is identical.

### What does vv23-25 mean?

#### There are two Hebrew words for boys (*qatan*: 2:23 and *yeled*: 2:24) in the passage.3 Both words can mean “boy,” or even “young boy,” but can also mean “adolescent” or “older teenager” Both words are even used for Joseph’s brother Benjamin when he was in his 20s (Gen 44:20). Since the words have a broad range of meaning, one needs to look at the context to understand how it should be translated. It is unreasonable to assume that a large group of very young boys were hanging out in the wilderness, unsupervised. Nursery schools don’t typically meet in the hills outside of town without parents or adult supervision. However, a gang of teenagers could reasonably be by themselves outside of town. Thus, this was not harmless teasing by a group of preschoolers, but serious taunting by a pack of teens.

#### In the rest of the world, and throughout history, insults are taken far more seriously than they are here. We would doubt that your point about a harmless insult would be taken seriously by someone in the Middle East today. They would say what Elisha did was proper. People could be severely punished for insulting leaders, rulers, kings, etc. Think about the whole idea of dueling: you insult my honor, and we will battle to the death. While in our 21st-century, Western mindset it may seem like Elisha was overreacting, within his cultural context his behavior was justified.

#### It can also be noted that their taunt for him to “go up” can mean for him to join Elijah in going up. So they were telling him to die.

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Text

# Possible Illustrations

### Text

# Possible Applications

### Text

# Older Outlines of This Sermon Text or Outlines by Others (Books, Commentaries, etc.)

### Text

**God’s Empowerment**

***2 Kings 2***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# Exegetical Idea (CPT): The manner by which God empowered Elisha to succeed Elijah was by different ways.

# I. The ways in which Elisha received God’s empowerment were by his persistence and God’s will (2:1-12)

## Elisha was persistent in following Elijah till the end (vv1-10)

## God allowed Elisha to see Elijah being taken up (vv11-12)

# II. The manner by which God empowered Elisha to succeed Elijah was by different ways (2:13-25)

## God enabled Elisha to part the Jordan river (vv13-14)

## God justified Elisha to the sons of the prophets (vv15-18)

## God enabled Elisha to heal the water (vv19-22)

## God provided justice to Elisha (vv23-25)

Purpose: The listeners will be motivated to continue to do God’s work

Cyclical inductive form

# Introduction

### Interest: Moses’ calling – giving many excuses about being weak but God empowered.

### Need: A lot of times we are like Moses giving excuses to do His work or are discouraged.

#### Sometimes you’re asked to preach but you think you’re not good enough.

#### Sometimes you’re discouraged because people doubt you or say hurtful things.

### Subject: How does God empower us to do His work? How does he help us in ministry?

### Background: Back in 1 Kings 19:16, 19, God told Elijah that Elisha will succeed him.

### Preview: Today’s text shows the result of God’s empowerment and how we can have it.

### Text: In the story of 2 Kings 2, we will see how Elisha received God’s empowerment and how it helped him

(Let’s read 2 Kings 2:1-12. In the verses we read we see that…)

# I. God’s empowerment takes perseverance to do his will (2:1-12)

[God qualifies us for His calling if we are willing to strive for it.]

## Elisha followed Elijah till the end even when Elijah asked him to stay (1-9).

### Double portion means empowerment

### Elisha persevered to receive empowerment

## God allowed Elisha to see Elijah being taken from him (10-12).

## ILL: I wanted to quit serving as a drummer because I wasn’t good enough. But God empowered me after striving

## APP: Are you quitting because of God’s leading or your own incapability?

(we have seen how Elisha received God’s empowerment; we shall then see the result of his empowerment in verses 13-25. In these verses, it is shown that…)

# II. God empowers us in different ways (2:13-25)

[God qualifies us for His calling in various means.]

## God enabled Elisha to part the Jordan river (13-14)

## God justified Elisha to the sons of the prophets (15-18)

## God showed Elisha how to heal the water (19-22)

## God provided justice for Elisha (23-25)

### the small boys could mean teens

### According to cultural context, it is offensive to disrespect authority.

### The taunt “go up” means to die

### God provides justice

## ILL: Someone complained about my drumming skills but stopped when God empowered me

## APP: Are you discouraged by hurtful comments? God will justify and judge.

## ILL: God called me to full-time ministry but had many reservations about being unqualified. But God enabled me and gave me wisdom

## APP: What are the things you are not willing to do because you think you’re not good enough? God can enable and give wisdom.

# Conclusion

### MI: God empowers us to do his work in different ways.

### MPs: God’s empowerment takes perseverance and his will in various ways.

### Exhortation: God empowers. Do you trust that?