

## Wrap Your Faith in Three Words.

Dr. Bob Abramson

### Five Truths - Wrapped in Faith

God calls us to turn to faith-filled action when we're in emotional or even physical pain. We're to show our faith by declaring, *"It is well,"* even before it is. God will hear and respond. There's a classic biblical example for us to look into. It holds as true today as in biblical times. The Book of 2 Kings, Chapter 4, gives us the record of a *"notable woman,"* a Shunammite, who showed kindness to Elisha by providing him with lodging and food whenever he came her way. Elisha was instrumental in seeking God to provide her with a son. God responded with the miracle of his birth. However, some time later, the young boy suddenly and unexpectedly died. Here's the Shunammite woman's response to this tragedy. She showed awesome faith, declaring, *"It is well."*

#### *2 Kings 4:18-25*

*"And the child grew. Now it happened one day that he went out to his father, to the reapers. {19} And he said to his father, "My head, my head!" So he said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother." {20} When he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died. {22} And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut the door upon him, and went out. {22} Then she called to her husband, and said, "Please send me one of the young men and one of the donkeys, that I may run to the man of God and come back." {23} So he said, "Why are you going to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath." And she said...*

*"It is well."*

*{24} Then she saddled a donkey, and said to her servant, "Drive, and go forward; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you." {25} And so she departed, and went to the man of God at Mount Carmel."*

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Let's stop at this point in the narrative to see what truths can be learned from the Shunammite woman's response to this tragedy. It was certainly beyond her control. She had no power to alter her son's lifeless condition.

### **First Truth: Stay Secure in the Peace of God.**

The Shunammite woman spoke words of faith when there was no physical evidence she should. She simply prepared to go to Elisha, speaking these three words to her husband, *"It is well."* The Hebrew word that this phrase is translated from is "shalom." In its simplest and purest form, it means "peace." We can learn, first, that in spite of even the most perilous or devastating circumstances, we can stay secure in the peace of God. He can take you from a devastating circumstance into a place of peace, with a path to the future. By definition, with Him all things are possible - all things! With Him nothing is impossible - nothing! It's a lesson in faith, wrapped in truth. And so, the Shunammite woman began her journey to find Elisha. She knew God would be found when she found him.

### **Second Truth: Only Share Your Troubles With People Who Can Help.**

It's not of any use to share your problem with those who cannot help you solve it. They must be people who can (1) pray in faith, or (2) take action in the midst of faith.

### **Third Truth: Your Words Make a Difference.**

As the Shunammite woman went to find Elisha, she encountered Gahazi, Elisha's servant, whom the prophet had sent to inquire of her, *"Is it well with you?"* Her words made a difference. Words of faith will make a difference for you. Here's what happened.

*2 Kings 4:25-27*

*"So it was, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to his servant Gehazi, "Look, the Shunammite woman! {26} Please run now to meet her, and say to her, 'Is it well*

*with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?" And she answered, "It is well."*

You must hold fast to your confession of faith without wavering. The woman continued to declare, *"It is well."* (And it certainly wasn't to the natural eye. It was anything but well!) Her words moved God, who always watches over us. It made a difference!

#### *Hebrews 10:22-23*

*"...let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. {23} Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."*

- Faith doesn't give in.
- Faith doesn't give out.
- Faith doesn't give up.
- Faith believes God and trusts Him for the outcome!

### **Fourth Truth: Stay Close to People Who Stay Close to God.**

By moving toward Elisha (God's prophet, who kept himself close to God), the Shunammite woman received her miracle. Proximity makes a difference!

#### *2 Kings 4: 27-30*

*"Now when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the Lord has hidden it from me, and has not told me." {28} So she said, "Did I ask a son of my lord? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me'?" {29} Then he said to Gehazi, "Get yourself ready, and take my staff in your hand, and be on your way. If you meet anyone, do not greet him; and if anyone greets you, do not answer him; but lay my staff on the face of the child." {30} And the mother of the child said, "As the Lord lives, and as your*

*soul lives, I will not leave you.” So he arose and followed her.”*

When the prophet learned of the death of the Shunammite woman’s son, he made haste to go to where the boy’s lifeless body lay on the bed she had so often provided for him (Elisha). At this very moment, she not only refused to leave him, but personally led him to the place of her need. She understood that within Elisha was the power of God. She would stay close until she got her miracle. She understood the value of proximity to a person who was spiritual close to God.

#### *Hebrews 10:22-25*

*“...let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. {23} Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. {24} And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, {25} not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

Isolation should never be your choice! In the midst of crisis, stay close to people who stay close to God. Share your trouble with God’s people, but again, only those who can help you. Be in close fellowship with your brothers and sisters in the Lord before the trouble strikes and you will be positioned to receive help when it does. Now, let’s look at one more truth we can learn from this narrative.

### **Fifth Truth: When You Receive Your Miracle, Worship God!**

#### *2 Kings 4:32-37*

*“When Elisha came into the house, there was the child, lying dead on his bed. {33} He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the Lord. {34}*

*And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm. {35} He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. {36} And he called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Pick up your son." {37} So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground; then she picked up her son and went out."*

When God sends a miracle into your life, receive it and move ahead, gratefully remembering to worship Him! Be aware of His loving concern, far beyond the miracle into the coming weeks and months of your life. Understand that His desire is always to move heaven and earth on your behalf. Don't take His grace for granted. Worship Him and be sure to thank Him. Make it a habit. Show your faith, by saying, "it is well" ... and believe it!

### ***"It Is Well."* What now?**

Let's recap the process. The Shunammite woman confessed, "*It is well.*" She went to Elisha and God gave her a miracle. When she received her son back to life, she was grateful and worshiped God. Any of us who have experienced a similar process, even if we didn't get our miracle, ought to confess "*it is well.*" Regardless of the outcome, when you confess your faith, expect God to be there and take you to whatever's next, never alone, always with Him.

### **Attitudes That Will Advance Your Faith To Where It Needs To Be**

Something inside of her moved the Shunammite woman to find Elisha to get her miracle. She went with a sense of urgency, fully expecting to challenge and even demand that Elisha would intercede for her. She would not be denied. She expected that

she would have her miracle. What was it that put that attitude in her? How can you apply the lessons in this narrative to yourself?

1. She cared too much to surrender to the circumstances without a fight. The Shunammite woman would continue to battle to see her son brought back to life. She would stay personally involved and not remove herself from the solution. She became part of it. She would not be denied! Be sure that when you need a miracle, to have an attitude of faith that says, "I will not be denied! I will do my part and I believe God will do His!"
2. She understood who and where to go for help. This was based on her knowledge of Elisha, whom she knew was a great prophet of God. So, when she found herself without any control over the situation, her answer to "what now?" was to stay in an attitude that embraced faith for the impossible! Like her, you may have to go beyond the boundaries and limits of what life typically offers. Expect the unexpected and even the impossible.
3. Even though we don't know if the Shunammite woman had heard of the miraculous increase in the widow's oil (Refer to Verses 1-7 of Chapter 4), she certainly should have been aware that Elisha had a reputation for miracles. He had been instrumental when God filled an abundance of vessels with oil for the prophet's widow, so the widow and her sons had more than enough to keep them from starvation. Knowing that Elisha was a miracle-working servant of God would have given the Shunammite woman encouragement and direction. She must have believed the power and promises of God were not a sham, but as real as the provision she now sought. Elisha had said she would have the child. It was a miracle. God did it before, and she had nowhere else to go, except to expect He would do it again. There will be times when you will just have to stand firmly on your expectations... and they must be based on the character of God! Whatever it is you need, believe that He's done it before and will do it again.
4. It's not over unless God says it's over! The Shunammite woman chose to pursue the impossible in the face of what seemed inevitable and appeared to be finished. Instead, she

confessed, *"It is well."* Her statement of faith looked far above the natural circumstances. She looked to the divine Creator, put a press on the prophet, and wrapped her expectations in faith. God was not surprised at her tenacity. Nor will He be surprised at yours, when you have to stand, believing for your miracle. He will be pleased to hear those three words, "It is well," and draw near to you.

5. Be sure you don't delay when you need to take action to affect your situation. Move ahead at full speed until you get your answer. In your desperation, seek *"the will of the Master"* until you are satisfied you found it. The Shunammite woman knew time was of the essence and so she hurried to find Elisha. She instructed her servant to *"Drive and go forward; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you."* (2 Kings 4:24) Redeem the time.

*Ephesians 5:15-17*

*"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, {16} redeeming the time, because the days are evil. {17} Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."*

*Ephesians 5:15-17 (MSG)*

*"So watch your step. Use your head. {16} Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times! {17} Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants."*

Please freely share this with others.

Blessings,  
Dr. Bob Abramson