

NEVER GIVE UP

II Kings 4:8-37

Crisis creates a void that God comes to fill with His power and show Himself strong in your life! God has no interest in filling an area of your life that is already full. He wants to fill that part of you that is empty, depleted, and hungry. You don't have to accept defeat and failure. Neither do you have to allow the enemy to terminate your "dream." *He (God) who has begun a good work in you shall perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6).* When the devil says, "NEVER" — you say, "That's right, devil, but the NEVER is on the giving up part. I will NEVER give up!"

THREE OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE UP

Opportunity #1: You bury the dream in your heart.

vs. 13-17

This is the place where most people fail. Don't be afraid to let your dream out. Resist the discomfort of wanting something from God! Reject the temptation to tell yourself that it doesn't matter anymore.

Two Defeating Attitudes

1. Hiding behind the mask

vs.13-14

This woman was so comfortable in who she was, she didn't feel like she needed anything. We can admire her confident, non-manipulative attitude. She's not arrogant. She just knows who she is! Though she has moral integrity, sadly, she also has a dream that has been buried deeply in her heart. She doesn't speak it to the man of God, but the Holy Spirit reveals it to Gehazi, his servant.

2. Accepting failure as final

vs.15-17

Elisha pronounces the heart of God to give her the fulfillment of her dream. She responds with a rebuttal that reflects her acceptance of repeated failure — "Oh, Man of God, don't bring that up to me now. I've come to the point where I can live without it. Don't wake it up!" Many times, this is what causes people to get locked into less.

Opportunity #2: You experience long-term favor.

vs.18-31

One of the hindrances to the COMPLETE fulfillment of your dream is your acceptance of PARTIAL fulfillment. Long periods of time with no disturbances tempt you to believe that THIS IS IT! No one fights harder for the dream than the one who carried it. When you've carried it for a long time and, with much pain, birthed it, you don't let it die easily. This mama refuses to accept the death of her dream (child). At his death she takes him and places him on the bed of the man of God. It started with a word from God, and it's not over until He says so. God started it — God can fix it!

Opportunity #3: Your miracle didn't come.

vs.31-37

She goes after help, and help came; but it didn't work! If you're going to get things that others don't — you must do things that others won't! Climbing on a dead body and placing your mouth, eyes, and hands on the corpse is RADICAL! God gave the Dream new life!