

# “Making Room for The Greater Things” // 2 Kings 4:8–37 // *Something Greater #6*

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For those of you who have been traveling this summer... welcome back.

That would include me. Just got back from visiting some of our families serving as church planters in Central Asia... then to Kenya

- (Describe projects)
- Just got back a couple of days ago... pretty jet-lagged (when we first scheduled the trip I thought Istanbul and
- Burned down a couple of hours after we left... wasn't me.

## Announcement:

### Real quick word about the video...

Every week, at all of our campuses, hundreds of families just like this one walk through our doors with their children and students and we feel a **tremendous responsibility** (as a church) to partner with our families to raise up their next generation of disciples.

- We think of our children as our **1<sup>st</sup> mission field**...
- Our prayer is that they will learn the same hope that we have... as the psalmist says, ***“set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.”*** (Ps. 78:7)

That's why we've intentionally created a plan for families that brings clarity to the process of discipling our children, provides parents with resources, and identifies key milestones as the gospel penetrates and shapes their lives.

**This weekend at the end of each of our services**, you can pick up a card (***hold up card***) with information telling you more about

our **Family Discipleship Plan**. I encourage you to go to [summitrdu.com/families](http://summitrdu.com/families) to see the full plan and commit with us to raise future generations who passionately walk with Jesus and leverage their lives for the gospel.

Our children in this church are **not just the responsibility of individual parents**, but the whole community.

## Introduction:

**BIBLE: How many of you are on Facebook?** A couple of weeks ago Mark Zuckerberg was in the news because he made a \$3.8 billion gain on his stocks in a 2 day period. That meant for those 48 hours he made **\$80 million/hour**, or **\$21,000 every second**.

It reminded me of a scene from the movie *The Social Network*, the story about Zuckerberg's life. If you saw it, his original partner wants to sell *Facebook* (right after it took off) and make a million dollars off the deal. Justin Timberlake told him, *“You shouldn't be thinking about a million dollars, you should be thinking about a billion dollars.”*

Currently Zuckerberg's net worth is \$16.8 billion, and he's only 29 years old (same age as me).

- He could have walked away with a million dollars at age 20, but it would have been a disastrous decision.

**We face these kinds of decisions all the time**, and in this short series on **Elijah and Elisha** I am trying to persuade you not to trade in your life too early... the stakes in this trade are much higher. We're not talking about **something as temporary and ultimately meaningless** as millions and billions of dollars; we're talking about a life that matters for eternity verse one that is completely wasted.

God offers “something greater” to you, but it's hard to obtain it because it takes patience and vision and faith and delayed gratification.

Most will never get ahold of it. **All your life will count for** is down here, when this is just a **drop in the bucket** compared to eternity.

## 2 Kings 4:8–37

God had promised to raise up after Elijah a prophet GREATER than he was, and Elisha was that prophet.

- Elisha gives us foreshadowing of Jesus, the GREATEST of all prophets.
- I've explained to you that **Elisha also embodies a promise** given to us, that Jesus would use our lives for GREATER things... Jesus promised us in John 14 that we would do GREATER works than even he did, because we would carry the message and power of his salvation all over the world. **Elijah: 14; Elisha: 28**
- I'm **pretty fired up** about this... just got back from Central Asia and East Africa visiting Summit families... you can live it out here, but I'm seeing people who left all that is comfortable and relocated their lives in pursuit of it

**We're going to look at a scene from the story of Elisha that shows us what kind of heart receives the greater things.**

- I **know you want blessing** from God—but is your heart the kind that can receive it? That's the better question.

Maybe you're **not a Christian** and you're skeptical of the blessing of God—it seems like something to explain their good luck, or, even worse, to manipulate others or justify their selfishness...

I think what you're going to see here is that **the blessing of God is quite real**, though it's **altogether different** from what most people think about it.

Let's read this passage, and I'm going to give you **6 principles** about receiving the blessing of God:

<sup>8</sup> One day Elisha went on to Shunem, where a wealthy (Hebrew: *gadol*, great, powerful) woman lived, who urged him to eat some

food. So whenever he passed that way, he would turn in there to eat food. <sup>9</sup> And she said to her husband, "*Behold now, I know that this is a holy man of God who is continually passing our way.*" <sup>10</sup> Let us make a small room on the roof with walls and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that whenever he comes to us, he can go in there."

### 1. We can't *make* God move in our lives, but we can *make* room for him to move.

- This decision to make a little room for Elisha is going to be **instrumental in what happens** in the rest of the story.
- It's not like what she did **obligated God** to do what he did, but it put her in the proximity of his power.

There is **nothing that you and I can do that can force God** to move in our lives—

- *Jesus said that the movement of his Spirit is mysterious, like the wind, you can't always tell where it comes from or when it's coming (and the moment somebody comes up with a formula that manipulates God you know they're misleading you).*
- *But think of it like this: you can put up the sail so that when it blows, you catch it.*

*Examples:*

- People always get a kick about how many **conversations I seem** to get into on an airplane... (*the one from this week.*)
- Or here's another way to think about it: my parents made sure I learned Scripture as a kid that the community of God was the center part of my life. That doesn't guarantee God would work in my heart, and, in fact, by the time I was 16, I was a pretty rebellious kid.
  - But then God's Spirit began to blow, and all these things my parents had planted into my heart burst into life, in a moment.

That's how faith works: you **can't manipulate** the presence of God; you **can't make him move** in your life, but you can make room for him to move.

Put the sail up! Maybe, like this woman, you have something that you should repurpose for ministry—I just want your blessing in this so I'm going to give a portion to you.

- I'm going to invest some sacrifice of time.
- I'm going to go on a mission trip...
- Why God hasn't moved... NEVER PUT THE SAIL UP!

(SUMMARIZE: Well, vs. 11, she does that and **one time when Elisha** was staying there he says to Gehazi his assistant, "*You know, this woman has been so kind to us... what can we do to say thank you?*")

- So they suggested some things to her, but she **really didn't have any needs**: (remember, she was "gadol," she was rich... And if you've got a rich relative or rich friend you know how hard it can be to buy things for them. What can you buy that they need?)
- Well, she is *GADOL*, **except for one thing**. She has no son. As I've explained before, sons in those days were **everything**—they took care of you in your old age; kept your family line going; maintained the property and the family inheritance. A life with no son was thought of as incomplete. And this woman has none.
- Interestingly, she **doesn't complain** about it. She seems content, but **Elisha says, on his own**: "This time next year God will give you a son."
  - Vs. 16: "**Don't tease me.**" This is sensitive. Having a child was a **dream** she'd given up on.
  - **Elisha says, "I'm not,"** and...
  - Sure enough, in a year, she **has a baby by her octogenarian** husband.
  - (**Mercifully**, the Bible leaves out the details.)

Well...<sup>18</sup> When the child had grown, he went out one day to his father among the reapers. <sup>19</sup> And he said to his father, "Oh, my head, my head!"

The father said to his servant, "Carry him to his mother." <sup>20</sup> And when he had lifted him and brought him to his mother, the child sat on her lap till noon, and then he died. <sup>21</sup> And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God and shut the door behind him and went out. <sup>22</sup> Then she called to her husband and said, "Send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, that I may quickly go to the man of God and come back again."

<sup>23</sup> And he said, "Why will you go to him today? It is neither new moon nor Sabbath."

She said, "All is well."

<sup>25</sup> So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. When the man of God saw her coming, he said to Gehazi his servant, "Look, there is the Shunammite. <sup>26</sup> Run at once to meet her and say to her, 'Is all well with you? Is all well with your husband? Is all well with the child?' "

And she answered, "All is well."

<sup>27</sup> And when she came to the mountain to the man of God, she caught hold of his feet. And Gehazi came to push her away. But the man of God said, "Leave her alone, for she is in bitter distress, and the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me."

<sup>28</sup> Then she said, "Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me?' " (*this woman's got some spunk, doesn't she?*)

<sup>29</sup> He said to Gehazi, "Tie up your garment and take my staff in your hand and go. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not reply. And lay my staff on the face of the child."

<sup>30</sup> Then the mother of the child said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So he arose and followed her.

<sup>31</sup> Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the face of the child, but there was no sound or sign of life. Therefore he returned to meet him and told him, "The child has not awakened."

- (BTW, can I tell you real quick why I think these stories are true?<sup>1</sup>
  - Why would you make this part up?
  - When you're telling stories about your leaders, you want to make them sound great. Here is Elisha—he's called the **MAN OF GOD**, he's a hero—and he tries to do this miracle **3 different ways and it doesn't work**.
    - First, he's like "I have **given my assistant power** to do this miracle." (nope).
    - "Then, uhh... **lay your staff** on his face" (cause, you know, that worked for Moses with the whole Red Sea thing... Ok, that didn't work.)
    - "OK, now throw **dust in the air** and recite the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm."
- These **details are not flattering to Elisha**. Why are they in there? Because **THEY HAPPENED**.
- Or this **detail we'll get to in vs. 35**: when Elisha raises the kid, "the child sneezed 7 times." I searched every commentary I own for the **symbolism**... none. This detail is in there **just because it happened!** 7 times: better write that down!
- **When myths are written**, they put the focus on **how great** the leaders are. But that's **not what the Bible** stories do; they just **tell you what happened**, because their focus is not to exalt the man of God, but to exalt the God working through the man.

<sup>32</sup> When Elisha came into the house, he saw the child lying dead on his bed. <sup>33</sup> So he went in and shut the door behind the two of them and prayed to the LORD. <sup>34</sup> Then he went up and lay on the child,

putting his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands. And as he stretched himself upon him, the flesh of the child became warm. <sup>35</sup> Then he got up again and walked once back and forth in the house, and went up and stretched himself upon him.

The child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. <sup>36</sup> Then he summoned Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite." So he called her. And when she came to him, he said, "Pick up your son." <sup>37</sup> She came and fell at his feet, bowing to the ground. Then she picked up her son and went out.

## 2. The blessing of God is only found in the place of our weakness

- As I pointed out, this woman **had everything**... She's "gadol." Yet this miracle occurs **in the one place** in which she is **not gadol**; the area in which she was **actually poor and desperate**.
- Do you ever notice how harshly the Bible seems to speak about rich people?
  - **Luke 1:53**, "He [God] has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty."
  - **Mark 10:25**, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."
  - You think, *What has God got against rich people? Is he into class warfare?*
- No... it's that a person's wealth usually deceives them into **feeling self-sufficient**; like they can be independent of God. That's **the first sin of Adam and Eve**: feeling like we can be independent of God.
  - People who are **rich in possessions** usually **don't feel like they need to depend** on God with their future and so they are **not overly concerned** about obeying him.
  - People who are **rich in talent** usually don't depend on God to work in and through them because they usually **feel pretty competent** in what they do.

<sup>1</sup> Indebted to Tim Keller's sermon for this point.

- People who believe they are “**rich**” in good works... (that, on the whole, they are pretty good people), never come to God to throw themselves on his mercy and believe the gospel. They’re always trying to negotiate with God.
- **So richness almost always leads to feelings of independence.**
- **But our sense of “richness” in those things, you see, is just an illusion.**
  - For all of her **gadol**, this woman can’t have a child!
  - You think you’re **rich enough to face the future**? God could take it away in a second. And even if you manage to die rich, nothing you have on earth would profit for eternity.
  - You think you’re **rich in good works**? The very best of us deserve hell. **Isa 64:6.**
- **Rev 3:17, “For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.”**
  - **Because you said you were rich spiritually...** You don’t realize you are poor...” If you had; if you had owned your spiritual poverty, he would give you the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
    - **It’s never your sin that keeps you from heaven.** It’s your false sense of righteousness
  - Because you said, “I am **rich professionally**... I am super competent, able to meet all my needs, and set for life...” Oh, you fool... **one flick** of God’s finger takes it all away. And you **never laid up treasure** in heaven that can’t be taken away.
  - Because you said, “**I am rich relationally**... I am a capable father...” Oh, if you would own your poverty, you could have his help.”
  - **God was so full of grace, so ready to help, but your sense of richness kept you from the richness of his mercy.**
- **It’s not your weaknesses that keep you from blessing;** it’s your strength that keeps you from the power of God.
- And so sometimes, like this woman, God puts things into your life that you can’t conquer...
  - The death of a child you are unable to prevent.
  - A divorce you go through.
  - A health scare
  - An addiction you can’t overcome.
  - ~~An inability to achieve your dreams; or the fact that when you did achieve your dreams they didn’t satisfy you.~~
  - ~~I was reading this week... The British philosopher **Dorothy Sayers** said that her conversion came when she saw that what she had dedicated her life to, to fix humanity, failed. She was part of the British Socialists, who believed that if you simply lifted people out of poverty and gave them education it would fix their problems. But then the incessant warfare of the 20<sup>th</sup> century shattered that illusion:
    - ~~“We were given to believe that we are essentially good human beings evolving into higher, better beings; that we were essentially teachable, and so to us “the appalling outbursts of bestial ferocity in (socialism), and the obstinate selfishness and stupid greed of capitalist societies, are not merely shocking and alarming. For (us), these things are the utter negation of everything in which (we) have believed.”<sup>2</sup>~~
    - The failure of politics and education to cure humanites problems led you to see that for all of our supposed “greatness” we are still poor!~~
- **These failures are God’s mercy!**
  - Remember this? **If dependence is the objective, weakness is an advantage.** God is full of mercy; fully

<sup>2</sup> Dorothy Sayers, *Creed or Chaos*.

sufficient for your every need. What separates you from that is not the depth of your neediness, but your pride in your strength.

- I was reading a **biography of Abraham Lincoln** last week... They say that the Lincoln who entered office in 1861 was **vastly different** than the Lincoln who died in 1865 in terms of his relationship with God. The **kind of faith in God that comes through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inaugural Address** and the resolve to do God's will toward the end of his presidency simply wasn't there in 1861.
  - The difference, this biographer said, came in 1862 when his 11-year-old son, Willie, died, and **for one of the first times in his life, Lincoln felt absolutely powerless to do anything about it.** But that brokenness taught him to seek a God bigger than himself, and his newfound **belief in that God and his purposes gave him the courage** to issue the *Emancipation Proclamation* because he knew God wanted it and was determined to stand against the whole country if that's what it took.<sup>3</sup>
- **Here's one other thing**—did you notice in here the woman goes by herself, and her husband doesn't join her?
  - Did you know that in **every case except one in the Bible**, it is a woman who receives a dead relative back to life? 10 times someone is resurrected from the dead; 9 of them are women. (Heb. 11:35, "Women received their dead back to life again.")
  - **Why?**
  - When Jesus is **raised from the dead**, it is the women who see him.
  - Here's why: Women have often been the **marginalized in societies**. Historically they have been **kept out of power**.

- So, consequently, they have more readily **understood the gospel**. Men, who have traditionally had the power, are harder to come by it.

### 3. We cannot manipulate God, but we can trust him

- This story is **not presented in terms of a formula**: "How to get a miracle." **Elisha doesn't know** what to do. What they do is approach a **God they know to be merciful**.
- Religion teaches you to approach God based on formula: "If you do this, God will do this."
  - **It is mechanical**: "you do A; God is obligated to do B."
  - So you say, "God, my life is good enough God; I've done enough of the right things so you owe me... a marriage; a healthy family; a prospering business."
  - *But gospel faith is not faith in a FORMULA, it is faith in a PERSON: an Almighty, all-knowing, infinitely caring person.*
  - We know him as someone we trust, not a **vending machine** or a **genie in a bottle** that you rub the right way or put in the correct change and out comes your blessing.
- You ever thought about how bad it would be if God were mechanical? **Think about your own life...**
  - **How many girls did I ask God to fall in love with me?** (And my life was pretty good at the time—I'm glad God overruled me.)
    - *We're sinners and we're often foolish. So half the time what we're asking for God is not good!*
  - You ought to **get out a journal** sometime and write out "God's blessings in my unanswered prayers"... and just write them out. ***"Sometimes I thank God for unanswered prayers. Just remember when you're talking to the man upstairs, just because he doesn't answer, doesn't mean he don't care... some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers."*** Yes, that is the **first time** I've ever quoted a Garth Brooks' song in a sermon.

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<sup>3</sup> *Abraham Lincoln: The Spiritual Growth of a Public Man*, Elton Trueblood, Trinity Forum Abridged version, p. 25.

- We are sinners: what we need is a loving father, not a genie in a bottle, who overrules us sometimes, like I do my children.
- **Sometimes a “no” answer to prayer is not “no answer to prayer.” Sometimes God answers our prayers by giving us what we would have asked for if we knew what he knew.**
- This woman trusts God, which is why she keeps repeating, when people ask her, “Is everything OK?” *All is well.*
- **But she also believes in his grace.**

Which leads me to #4...

#### 4. Gospel faith is a mixture of contentment and holy discontentment. xxxx

- This woman is a curious mixture of contentment and discontentment.
- After her son dies, she is asked repeatedly what is going on, and she responds, simply, “**All is well**” (once in vs. 23; again in vs. 26.) But your son just died!
- But **at the same time, she is like a bulldog.** She’s not taking “no” from anybody.
  - She goes to Elisha and **Gehazi comes out** and says, “I am the **personal assistant** to Elisha. What do you need?” She says, “yeah, **I need to see Elisha.**” Uhh... I’m sorry. I said, I am the **executive personal assistant** to the man of God, what’s the **problem?**” “*You’re the problem, pal. I am not leaving here until I see Elisha.*”
- *Gospel faith, earth-transforming faith, is like that. Curious mixture of contentment and holy discontentment.*
- There is a **sense, deep in your soul**, that “all is well.” But there is another sense in which it is not all well and you’re not leaving God alone until he moves.
- “All is well” with my soul, but not all is well with my world.
  - “I see people suffering. I see people who need to know Jesus. And it’s not ok...”

- The families I spent time with in **Central Asia and Africa** are there because they are saying:
  - It’s not **ok that these people** are in poverty... that they suffer under injustice.
  - It’s not ok that this **unreached people group** has no access to the gospel.
- Maybe you’ll say:
  - It’s not ok that **God’s name is ridiculed** by my high school friends and no one has the courage to stand boldly for Jesus.
  - It’s not ok that **my kids don’t know Jesus...**
- And you grab hold of Jesus’ garment and say, “I won’t let you go.”
  - Scott L: I’m the only one... and that’s not ok

**All is well with my soul.** All is not well with my world.

- **There is a connection between the two.** It’s only when you are content with Christ that you can ever be moved by the discontentment that comes from compassion. Otherwise you’ll be too focused on your own, unmet needs to be moved by the needs of the world.
- When you are content in Christ, you can leverage your whole life to serve a dying world. You can say, “**In Christ, I can give up all that I have, because in Christ, I already have all that I need.**”
- **Most of you are exactly the opposite, right?** You are discontent in your soul, and unmoved by the needs of the world. You have a discontentment that comes from idolatry and a contentment with the state of the world that grows out of complacency.

**Did you know this story is where the hymn “It is well” comes from this phrase “all is well” that is repeated by this woman?**

- The song was written by a man named Horatio Spafford in 1873. In 1871, the Great Chicago Fire left him financially destitute, because he had invested heavily in real estate there. At the urging of D. L. Moody, he decided to leave for England to help them with their evangelistic campaigns. Since he had

some business to finish, he sent his wife and children on ahead. But their ship sank: his wife survived, but all four of his daughters drowned. Spafford left almost immediately to join his grieving wife. Along the way, the captain informed Spafford that they were passing the site of the accident. Spafford went down below deck and wrote the words:

*“When peace like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say—It is well, it is well, with my soul.”*

- **Rest of the story:** Interestingly, Spafford went on to found a mission... the statement of his heart was “It is well.” The posture of his life—the radical way he lived, said, “It is not well...”

### 5. The blessings of the gospel are appropriated only through persistence

- This woman grabs hold of Elisha and won't let go, clinging, it says, to his garment.
- Does that remind you of a New Testament story?
  - Woman who touched the hem... she *fought*.
- In so many places the Bible teaches that the blessings of God are appropriated only through persistence. Sometimes in stories that are downright confusing.
  - **Luke 18:** Parable of the persistent widow...
    - Then he says, unbelievably, “This is like praying to God.”
    - I'm sure glad Jesus told this parable, not me. I mean, comparing God to a cranky, old, unjust judge?
    - And we wear God down through persistent, annoying asking? *Who but Jesus could get away with that analogy?*
    - The point, of course, is not to *compare* God to an unjust judge but to *contrast* him with one; his point is that if even an unrighteous, selfish judge would grant answers because of persistent asking, won't God, who cares about us as a

tender Father, give us what we ask if we come to him?

- **But my question:** If it was God's will... why hadn't God already done it? **Or, at least, not just say “yes” the first time?** *I don't know*, but stories like this teach you that God rewards persistent seeking.
  - You and I are to be like that... **God, this is what I want. And I'm not letting go.** If you want to drag me all around heaven that's fine.
    - I was helping keep the kids in Central Asia: *“this is what I want to be like with God.”*
- **What do you need to do that with God about?**
  - **I have children that need to know Jesus.**
  - A marriage...
  - Friends
- Say: “God, this is what I want to see. And I'll be back tomorrow... and the day after that.”

### 6. God gave the ultimate blessing—deliverance from death—by taking our death into himself.

- Elisha covered the boy with himself. Picture of Jesus.
  - **Eyes to eyes;** nose to nose; mouth to mouth. Complete identification.
  - If you **looked down from heaven** at this boy, all you could see was Elijah.
- This is how Jesus would save us. He united himself to us completely—eyes to our eyes; nose to our nose; flesh to our flesh.
  - He **took upon himself** our flesh, and **God made him who knew no sin** to become sin for us, so that we could become the righteousness of God in him.
  - He **completely covered us**, slain in our place, so that if you **looked down from heaven** at us, you can only see Jesus.



And here's the thought: If God did that for you, if he loved you that much, don't you think you can trust he cares about the rest of the stuff in your life and that he can handle it?

- **Romans 5:6-8** [6] *For while we were still weak... Christ died for the ungodly.* [7] *For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—*[8] *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- **Romans 8:** He who did not spare his own Son, will he not also with him freely give us all things?

And, if **he can defeat death, the ultimate problem**, isn't he powerful above all our other problems?

There is **no addiction too strong**; no **life too broken**; no sin too wicked; no **regret too severe**. The writer of Hebrews says God is able to **save to the uttermost** those who come to God through him.

And don't you **realize that if he's conquered death**, then really there's nothing that can happen to us down here that will devastate us?

He has blessed you with **every spiritual blessing** in Christ...

- Is your health broken? God will raise you in a redeemed body.
- Did you lose a loved one? You'll live with them in eternity.
- Is your reputation destroyed?
- "I am convinced that the sufferings of this life are not worthy to be compared to the weight of glory that shall be revealed in us."

## Conclusion: (music)

As Abraham Lincoln read the Bible that crucial year in 1862 after his son died, this is exactly what he came to see. He saw that **God could not be defeated**, even by death itself, and he reasoned this: *(and we know this by things he wrote and told friends): If the*

*Almighty's purposes can't be thwarted even by death, then we know that his purpose to abolish slavery can't be thwarted either, and so we must press on to the end no matter how hopeless the odds against us.*

*So, with malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in... to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.*

**When you see God can't be defeated, you'll become more confident than ever in what you believe God has called you to do.<sup>4</sup> You'll press on.**

1. *We can't make God move in our lives, but we can make room for him to move.*
2. *The blessing of God is only found in the place of our weakness*
3. *We cannot manipulate God, but we can trust him*
4. *Gospel faith is a mixture of contentment and discontentment*
5. *The blessings of the gospel are appropriated only through persistence*
6. *God gave the ultimate blessing—deliverance from death—by taking our death into himself.*

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<sup>4</sup> Abraham Lincoln, 26.