

# A Missed Opportunity

## Introduction

### 2 Kings 13:14-19

1. **How many times do we “miss out” because of failure to grab at a “sure thing?”**
  - A. **How many times do we “miss out” because of lack of faith -- in ourselves, in others, or in God?**
  - B. **How many times do we say “I just don’t have time” or “I’ll wait until tomorrow” or “others are better qualified.”**
  - C. **On the other hand, we need to THANK GOD for some “missed opportunities!” Some can lead us away from family, God, heaven.**
2. **Text: Elisha is nearing death. There is an opportunity given to Joash to COMPLETELY destroy the Syrians.**
  - A. **Because of hesitancy? Lack of faith? He fails to take FULL advantage of God’s promise.**
    - 1) **The situation ends up being a missed opportunity for himself and for the Israelites!**
    - 2) **The Syrians continued to plague Israel (13:22).**

### **3. God's promises are a "sure thing!"**

2 Peter 1:4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Titus 1:2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

- A. We must not miss out on the opportunities given to us through the blood of Jesus to win the complete victory over sin and over our adversary the devil.**

## **We Have Opportunity of Victory over Sin**

- 1. Everyone sins and falls short of God (Romans 3:23)**
- 2. But God gives everyone OPPORTUNITY of "Victory in Jesus."**
- 3. God's battle tactics against Satan are simple:**
  - A. Hear God's will**

John 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

- B. Believe in God "Faith"**

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

**C. Repent**

Acts 17:30 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

**D. Confess Jesus Christ as Lord, the Son of God**

Romans 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

**E. Be Baptized for the forgiveness of sins.**

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

**F. Walk in the light of God (Remain faithful).**

1 John 1:5-7 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

## **We Have Opportunity of Victory over Temptation**

### **1. Everyone of us has to deal with temptations.**

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

### **2. Christians must learn to “endure temptation.”**

James 1:2-3 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

### **3. The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation.**

2 Peter 2:9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

## **We Have Opportunity of Victory over a Sinful Life:**

- 1. After our conversion to Christ, struggles will continue.**  
**Romans 7:22-23**
  
- 2. But our “victory” is in Jesus!**  
**Romans 7:24-25**
  
- 3. Complete victory over Satan must be a determined and continuous effort.**  
**Romans 8:1-14**

## **Conclusion**

- 1. Joash missed his and Israel’s opportunity for complete victory by not following through completely.**
  
- 2. Hesitancy, or a half-hearted commitment, will make the ultimate victory harder to achieve for self and for others.**
  - A. Family, Friends, Church, etc.**
  
- 3. Believe in God’s promises without doubt or hesitancy.**
  
- 4. Obey the Lord today. Obey the Lord Completely with ALL your heart.**
  
- 5. I urge you, Christ is pleading with you to not hesitate – don’t be half-hearted about your eternal salvation!**

