

But the king rather lackidazically humors the old man. He doesn't see much sense for all this. He would like to get back into his palace where he can enjoy himself or where he could make plans for his means of carrying out his schemes of government. He is glad to humor the old man as long as it doesn't keep him too long so he just lackidazically hits the ground three times and stops. The man of God was wroth with him and Elisha on his death bed had the sorrow of seeing the king showing this lackidazically attitude of simply going through the form of doing what the Lord says and not ~~string~~ putting any energy and enthusiasm into it or any feeling on the king's part that it is vital to carry out in the fullest~~xxxxxx~~ possible way that which the Lord commands. So Elisha says to the king, he is angry, and he says, "You should have struck five or six times. You ought to have smitten Syria until you would have consumed them. If you showed an attitude of trying when the Lord gives you a command to carry out to the fullest. Just go at it with vigor and when I say "smite the ground" just do it hard a number of times instead of just three light taps. You would have consumed Syria, but now you are only going to win three battles against Syria.

Now the Lord is goigg to do what He said before He is going to give you a real victory at Aphek. He is going to give you anumber of victories but you still are going to have this terrific trouble ~~ax~~ with the Syrians to face. It is necessary that you have this. It is not persay that God leave you where you have nothing to force ~~tax~~ you to turn to Him and to call upon Him for help."

I think there is a lesson in t at for our own personal lives. Personally I do not think that it is right for us as a rule--~~fixmax~~ there may be instances where it is proper--but as a rule I do not think the thing for us to pray ~~is~~ that the Lord will keep us from having an accident or an injury or from getting a disease or from having various difficulties. I think that is too up-to-the point, that sort of thing. I think the thing for us to pray is that God will teach us the lessons He wants us to learn and will put us in a frame of mind where