

we are ready to do our very utmost to follow His will and if we are not, that He will send to us that which He does in order to force us back to Him to make us forget the earthly things and to see our absolute need in Him. I think that when sickness comes in the life of a Christian it may be any ~~of~~ one of many reasons which causes it. But there is one which may be the cause. This one may be that we are becoming so satisfied with our own methods of going forward even if they are ~~methods~~ of carrying on His work that we are forgetting our absolute dependency on Him and that He often takes a man who is in the very most vigorous service for the Lord and lays him on the shelf and gives him time to sit back and to realize his dependence upon God and to realize that the victory is not through us, ~~but~~ through what we do, or what we accomplish, but through a true and complete seeking of the Lord's will and seeking to follow Him. So I think that we should pray that the Lord will protect us from danger and difficulty but I think that we should pray more than that that He will put us in a situation of mind where we are ready to take His lessons without having to have the hard jolts which come with it. ~~In the~~

In this case the jolts were necessary. The ~~king~~ king and Israel were not in a situation in which these things could be dispensed with. God had Himself appointed Hazeil. When ~~the~~ the king recognized that Elisha was the chariots and horsemen of Israel, he didn't say anything about the fact that Elisha had actually anointed Hazeil who is the king of Syria and had predicted--I don't mean anointed in the specific sense but had done ~~the~~ what amounted to the same thing. He had predicted to Hazeil that he would be king of Syria and that he would terrifically mistreat the people of Israel. It was a terrible thing, a wicked thing, a thing for which Hazeil is now doubtless being punished, but it was a thing which was a part of God's plan and God used ~~the~~ the wrath of wicked men in accordance with His own plans and God had put Hazeil in that position for His own purpose. God was not a God simply to help Israel and

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