

4Ws

are you living on empty?

DON'T LIVE ON EMPTY, OVERFLOW WITH GOD

JANUARY 2, 2022

WORSHIP

Today, Eternal God,
Reliably True

WELCOME

What are you looking forward to in 2022?
What answers to prayer or personal breakthroughs are you trusting God for this year?

WORD

2 KINGS 4:1-7

Now a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord; and the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves." ² Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil." ³ Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels at large for yourself from all your neighbors, even empty vessels; do not get a few." ⁴ And you shall go in and shut the door behind you and your sons, and pour out into all these vessels, and you shall set aside what is full." ⁵ So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons; they were bringing the vessels to her and she poured. ⁶ When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not one vessel more." And the oil stopped. ⁷ Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt, and you and your sons can live on the rest."

Don't you just love the first 2 letters in resolution? Despite how we messed up, failed, disappointed others, and made bad decisions there's always hope in 2022 if we truly repent of our ways and seek God's help. He always gives us so many chances to restart again.

God wants you to experience His overflowing abundance of favor. He pours into our lives in overflowing measure so that we overflow and influence others around us. **John 10:10** shows overflowing abundance, life flowing over the rim and spilling out. He wants you to overflow with His love, joy, peace, and more so that it overflows into the lives of others around you.

There are about 72 Biblical references about overflow. **Psalm 23:5b** talks about the cup with an overflowing life, not an overwhelmed life. God gives us more than we need. He gives us joy (**John 15:11**), grace (**2 Corinthians 9:8**), and love (**1 Thessalonians 3:12**) that overflows. That's what Jesus wants for us--rivers of living water flowing out of our hearts (**John 7:38**).

Why do followers of Christ never really overflow? How do we get to this overflow stage in our walk with God? What steps will take us from trickle to overflow?

1. EMPTY ME

For God to overflow in you, pray "empty me" (**2 Kings 4:1**) of self-reliance, self-sufficiency, and self-confidence. You become empty when you are humble. Remove all your pride. Be emptied of ourselves. This widow cries out to the prophet Elisha that she was utterly empty, helpless, and needed God's help.

When trouble comes, the first thing you should do is go to God in humility, empty of self, seeking guidance and direction for your life. God loves you and always has plenty to give and He wants to give you a way out (**Psalm 50:15**)!

In **2 Kings 4:2**, Elisha asked her the same questions God is asking you today: "What shall I do for you?" and "What do you have?". The widow admitted she had nothing at all but oil. Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit in the Bible. That was enough. How little you have doesn't matter, the only thing that matters is that you completely surrender everything you have to God! He uses whatever we present to Him to overcome our circumstances.

God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble (**1 Peter 5:5**). When we are empty, God gives us grace to move on.

2. CLEAN ME

Elisha had a remedy that God showed him (**2 Kings 4:3**). The widow then went to her neighbors and borrowed as many vessels. These vessels must be empty and clean to be usable. We likewise must be empty through humility and we must pray "Lord, clean me." This prayer involves acknowledgment of our sin (**Psalm 139:23-24**). Be repentant. Sin cracks your cup and keeps you from being filled.

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Repentance restores our fellowship with God. It is not a one-time event but a daily practice to draw near to God making sure we are cleansed (**James 4:8**). You cleanse your life through repentance ---confessing your sins to God with a change of mind and heart. Turn away from whatever is ruining your life and breaks your fellowship with God. Repentance means being sorry enough to quit. A person who has truly repented will be seen walking with God in grace. Genuine repentance is evidenced by its fruit: a changed life.

Ask God to examine your life (**Joel 2:12**). When you spend time with the Lord, your eyes will be opened to see blind spots. Tell God honestly that you're in bondage to sin and need His cleansing. It's God's desire to help you but you must be willing to change. Prayer brings power and transformation that leads you to a spiritual victory to change your life that'll influence the people around you.

When we are clean, Christ covers the cracks in our cup.

3. FILL ME

Our next prayer to God ought to be "fill me". We cannot be satisfied or filled with temporal things. We must daily come into His presence, believing in Him, obeying and trusting in Him with all our hearts. Depend on God's power through the Holy Spirit.

Elisha gave specific instructions to the widow (**2 Kings 4:4-6**). She pours oil from her jar to the larger jars and one by one they get filled and the oil does not run out. All the vessels were filled to the brim. God's blessings overflowed until there were no empty vessels left! The moment you and I stop surrendering our lives to God, that may be the time that He stops filling it with His blessings. God's supply will always meet the measure of your faith.

Surrender in faith and believe His promises. Give up control, get out of the way and let God take over. An overflowing life is all about total surrender. When you received Jesus as your Savior, you have the Holy Spirit indwelling in your life. He is resident. But when you surrender your all to the Lord, the Holy Spirit becomes president, Lord of your life. When we are surrendered, Christ fills us according to our faith.

After God's filling, the first thing we ought to do is to honor God. Use His blessing for the purpose He intended. The widow was told to sell the oil and pay her debt (**2 Kings 4:7**). She earned enough money so that she and her sons don't have to work another day in their life. Her neighbors witnessed a miracle of how God met her need. Your life advertises the grace, blessing, and the power of God to those who are lost around you. God does more than we can ask or imagine (**Ephesians 3:20**). God blesses us to overflowing to be a blessing to others.

May you overflow with hope with the power of the Holy Spirit (**Romans 15:13**). Don't live on empty. Overflow with God. Be humble. Be repentant. Be surrendered.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

If God asked you today "What do you need?" and "What do you have?" What will you answer Him?

2. Setting It Right.

When God gives a command that doesn't sound logical, how do you obey it?

3. Living It Out.

What is God asking you to surrender to Him so that He can fill you to overflowing?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people who feel empty that they find the fullness of life in Christ alone and those who are full of themselves to empty their hearts of pride and self-centeredness and let Christ fill it. Fill in someone's need by sharing your blessings with them. Share the good news of the ultimate Savior from the emptiness of life and the Source of an overflowing life.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
A God-centered Philippines
Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center
Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God
Righteous living
Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.