Romans 12:12-13 *"rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality."* We are going to focus on verse 13 this morning by taking a look at a mother who showed hospitality. ***Read 2 Kings 8-37.*** Time permitting, there are 9 things I'd like us to notice regarding this account of a notable mother's hospitality.

I. CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY ***2 Kings 4:8*** *"Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a notable woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food."*

A. Note her hospitality: All Christians are to show hospitality. ***Rom.12:13*** *"distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality."*

B. Note her strength: "*where there was a notable woman"* God describes this mother as a notable or great woman. The Hebrew word, "Gadowl" = great, large in magnitude, numbers, strength. It is a word which was used to describe armies. Like Job, this woman used her great substance to minister to others – especially believers.

II. SUPERNATURAL SUBMISSION ***2 Kings 4:9-10*** *"And she said to her husband, 'Look now, I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly. 10 Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there.'"*

A. Note the fact that she asked her husband. The husband was not referred to as notable or great. In this case, the wife had greater spiritual maturity and perception, yet she still showed supernatural submission to her husband.

B. Submission to authority is the main evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit. ***Refer to Ephesians 5:18ff***

III. PROPHET'S REWARD ***2Kings 4:11-13*** *"And it happened one day that he came there, and he turned in to the upper room and lay down there. 12 Then he said to Gehazi his servant, 'Call this Shunammite woman.' When he had called her, she stood before him. 13 And he said to him, 'Say now to her, 'Look, you have been concerned for us with all this care. What can I do for you? Do you want me to speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?' She answered, 'I dwell among my own people.'"*

A. Jesus said that there is great reward waiting for those who show hospitality and meet the needs of His Servants: ***Matthew 10:40-42*** *"'He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. 41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.'"*

B. Elisha was expressing the gratitude of his heart and the heart of God!

IV. GODLY CONTENTMENT ***2Kings 4:13*** *"And he said to him, 'Say now to her, 'Look, you have been concerned for us with all this care. What can I do for you? Do you want me to speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?' She answered, 'I dwell among my own people.'"* When Elisha asked the woman what he could do for her in gratitude to her hospitality, she responded saying she was content. ***1 Timothy 6:6*** *"Now godliness with contentment is great gain"* ***Phil 4:11*** *"Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content"*

V. SUPERNATURAL BIRTH ***2Kings 4:14-18a*** *So he said, "What then is to be done for her?" And Gehazi answered, "Actually, she has no son, and her husband is old." 15 So he said, "Call her." When he had called her, she stood in the doorway. 16 Then he said, "About this time next year you shall embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant!" 17 But the woman conceived, and bore a son when the appointed time had come, of which Elisha had told her. 18 And the child grew.*

A. God gave her a child in response to Elisha's prayer. That child grew.

B. All Christians experience a supernatural birth and that new life grows within us: a new nature that is selfless, gentle, kind, loving, full of faith and hope.

VI. TEST OF FAITH ***2 Kings 4:18-20*** *"And the child grew. Now it happened one day that he went out to his father, to the reapers. 19 And he said to his father, "My head, my head!" So he said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother." 20 When he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died."*

A. There will come a time when our faith will be tested. At some time in our Christian experience, we will experience what seems like a death of our spiritual life.

B. We experience a time when it seems like God has turned his face away from us ***(Psalm 13)***. We experience what seems like the death of faith, hope, and love. ***1 Peter 4:12*** *"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you"*

VII. REMEDY AND CURE ***2 Kings 4:21-31*** What should we do when it seems like the supernatural birth within us has died? Let's learn from this great mother:

A. Vs.20: First recognize your condition: "then died."

B. Vs.21: The claim the promise of God: she "laid him on the prophet's bed."

C. Vs 22: God to God's Word, seek out Godly persons to pray for you.

D. Vs 22-24: Make this the number one priority in your life. Go with great haste and urgency.

E. Vs 26. Go in faith! She told her husband in faith that "*It is well*" in ***verse 23***, then in ***verse 26***: *"Please run now to meet her, and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?' And she answered, 'It is well.'"*

F. Vs 28: Grab hold of the goodness of God! Trust that He keeps His Word and that "gifts of God are without repentence (Rom 11:29)" ***Verse 28:"*** *So she said, 'Did I ask a son of my lord? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me'?"* When Elisha first promised her a child, she pleaded with him not to deceive her, for she'd learned to be content in her childless condition. Now that her child had died, it was like a mockery to her

VIII. HEART OF GOD ***2 Kings 4:26*** *Please run now to meet her, and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?'* ***3John 1:2*** *Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.*

A. Note God's Urgent concern: Elisha's concern and urgency were a representation of God's concern and urgency. Note in ***verse 29*** that Elisha's servant was not to stop for anything on the way. Note God's urgency to bless,

B. Yet, there was another test of faith, for Elisha's rod didn't work. Elisha had to be persistent in prayer ***2 Kings 4:29-31*** Note the mother's persistence in prayer.

IX EFFECTIVE INTERCESSION ***2 Kings 4:32-37*** A. Shut the door; B. Intercession requires total empathy and identification: mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes. C. Don't stop praying at the first sign of life (he was warm). D. The 7 sneezes: signs of life.