

## Keep on Chopping (The Floating Axe Head)

**2 Kings 6:1-7 (NLT)** *One day the group of prophets came to Elisha and told him, "As you can see, this place where we meet with you is too small. <sup>2</sup>Let's go down to the Jordan River, where there are plenty of logs. There we can build a new place for us to meet." "All right," he told them, "go ahead." <sup>3</sup>"Please come with us," someone suggested. "I will," he said. <sup>4</sup>So he went with them. When they arrived at the Jordan, they began cutting down trees. <sup>5</sup>But as one of them was cutting a tree, his ax head fell into the river. "Oh, sir!" he cried. "It was a borrowed ax!" <sup>6</sup>"Where did it fall?" the man of God asked. When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it into the water at that spot. Then the axe head floated to the surface. <sup>7</sup>"Grab it," Elisha said. And the man reached out and grabbed it.*

Giving Honor to God the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. To All of God's Sons, Daughters, and Children. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow. Let's turn to 2 Kings 6:1-7, as we lift up the Name of the Lord. Our topic is "Keep on Chopping."

**Story:** One day two woodcutters decided to cut wood and compare who could cut the most wood in a 5-hour period. The first hour seemed pretty standard as both men seemed to be cutting at the same rate, but at the end of the hour, one woodcutter noticed that he could hear both axes chopping when they started, but it had gotten extremely quiet during the last 5 minutes of the hour. He didn't stop. In fact, he kept chopping thinking that it would allow him the opportunity to get ahead. The second hour, the same exact thing happened as both axes were chopping rapidly, but during the last 5 minutes of the second hour, it got really quiet. The same woodcutter kept chopping and thought that this would be a good time to get ahead of the other woodcutter. Well, by the time the 5 hour period had expired, both men were looking forward to making a comparison to determine who cut the most wood. The one woodcutter said look at all that I cut. I kept cutting even when you slowed down. He looked over and noticed that the other woodcutter had twice as much wood than he had. How in the world did you cut more wood than I did? It was really quiet the last 5 minutes of each hour. What did you do during that time? He asked. "I took time to sharpen my axe." He replied.

**Sharpen your Axe Daily.** You can sharpen your axe by getting deeper daily in the Word of God. For the Word of God is alive and powerful. It is **sharper than** the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. (Hebrews 4:12). Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of God. The more you hear it, the more your faith will grow.

**Determination.** According to the text, the axe was borrowed. This means that the man did not have an axe of his own to earn a living, but he didn't allow this to stop him from Chopping. No more excuses. He was **determined** to survive!!! I don't know about you, but have you ever felt like everybody else was earning

and doing well? You may have looked at your situation and got sick and tired of being sick and tired. So, you made up your mind... Your heart was fixed, and your mind was surely made up and you took a leap of faith and borrowed if you had to... but your faith was firm on the Word of God!!! (You had sharpened the axe). Just keep on Chopping. The road may seem rough but just keep on chopping. Trouble may be in your way but just keep on Chopping. People may talk about you but just keep on Chopping. It may seem dark but just keep on Chopping. Weeping may endure for a night but just keep on Chopping. 'Cause joy comes in the morning. The devil may have meant it for bad but just keep on Chopping. I'm so glad – God meant it for your good. Just keep on Chopping. 1 Peter 1:13 encourages believers to "prepare your minds for action" because we have hope of even more of God's kindness when Jesus Christ returns. You see, we must work hard and cheerfully at all we do, just as though we were working for the Lord and not merely for others, remembering that it is the Lord Jesus Christ who is going to reward us and give us the full portion of all He owns. He is the one we are really serving wholeheartedly. (Colossians 3:23-24). Tell somebody, "Just keep on Chopping."

**Prioritize.** My brothers and sisters God is first in the life of a believer. Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness," which emphasizes the priority of putting God first. As you put God first, you will witness the move of God in your life. He will add blessings to you and you will see miracles occur. It is evident in today's passage that the man had a mind to trust in God. He also had a mind to keep on Chopping. He witnessed a miracle because the axe head floated that had fallen in the water and rose to the top of the water. Keep on Chopping.

In closing, sharpen your axe daily, stay determined and prioritize (Keep the Lord Jesus Christ first in your life). He will surely make a way for you. Just Keep on Chopping. God is no respecter of persons. If He worked miracles for Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the man in 2 Kings 6:1-7, I just believe that if you just keep on chopping... Our God will supply all of your needs according to His riches in glory. Keep on chopping. When it seems like burdens are in your way, keep on chopping. When it seems that you are under attack, keep on chopping. When it seems like you're all alone, keep on chopping. Our God is more for you than the whole world against you, keep on Chopping. Keep on Chopping. Keep on Chopping. Keep on Chopping. Hallelujah, I thank God. I thank Jesus and I thank the Holy Spirit. If you haven't accepted the Lord Jesus, won't you call on Him today and invite Him into your heart. All that call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:13). Hallelujah to the Lamb of God, just keep on chopping. In Jesus Name. Amen.