

“Lord Open Our Spiritual Eyes” by Ed Terry Delivered 11/1/20
Ephesians 6: 10 - 18; 2nd Corinthians 4: 6 – 18; Romans 8: 18 – 39; 2nd Kings 6: 8 – 17 (Sermon)

First a little background of our lesson from 2nd Kings.

Jehoram was the King of Israel and the Bible tells us Jehoram was a bad king because he did not trust God to protect Israel and he did not lead the people of Israel back to God.

In fact, Jehoram was so afraid that the Syrians would invade Israel that he tried to make an alliance with Ben - Hadad who was the King of Aramem by sending large gifts to Ben - Hadad.

However, the King of Aram wanted Jehoram to send more gifts and when Jehoram refused Ben - Hadad threatened to invade Israel.

In 2nd Corinthians 6:14 we are told; ***“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?”***

And in 1st Peter 5:8 we are warned that the devil is our enemy.

You see we should never make worldly bargains, concessions, or alliances with unbelievers or with Satan who is the enemy of our souls.

Satan is never satisfied and Satan will constantly try to destroy all believers.

However, the good news for Israel was there was a prophet of God in Israel named Elisha who was in constant communication with God.

So, each time King Ben - Hadad planned a raid on Israel God would reveal the Aramen’s plans to Elisha and in turn Elisha would give this information to King Jehoram.

Then King Jehoram would immediately send troops to the place the Arameans were planning to ambush Israel.

As a result, the Arameans were never able to fulfill their wicked plans to harm Israel.

2nd Kings 6: 10 told us that God revealed the Arameans’ plans to Elisha on a number of occasions.

Thus, God protected Israel.

King Ben - Hadad was enraged that the Israelites always knew his plans to attack Israel.

King Ben - Hadad suspected that there was a spy in his army who was delivering the information to the Israelite armies.

King Ben - Hadad could not imagine there could be any other way for the king of Israel to know of his intentions to invade Israel over and over again.

In verse 12 one of King Ben - Hadad officers told the king that there was no spy in the Aramean camp, but rather it was Israel's prophet Elisha who is in touch with God.

Notice the Bible says ***"Elisha knows the very words you speak in your bedroom"***. (Verse 12)

Now we do not know who this officer in the Aramean army was that knew about Elisha's miraculous gifts.

It may have been Namaan who was miraculously cured of leprosy when he came to Elisha for healing.

However, it was definitely someone who had heard about Namaan being healed by the prophet Elisha.

You can read about Naaman being healed of leprosy in Chapter 5 of 2nd Kings.

Once Ben - Hadad was told it was Elisha, Ben - Hadad sent out some spies to find out where Elisha was.

Verse 14 tells us when the report came back that Elisha was in Dothan, King Ben - Hadad ordered a night march to take the prophet Elisha by surprise and to capture him.

It was then that the Aramean army surrounded the small city of Dothan to prevent Elisha from escaping.

Early the next morning, Elisha's servant arose and saw the huge Aramean army surrounding the city. Elisha's servant was terrified and cried out to Elisha.

But in verse 16 we see that Elisha was not afraid because Elisha knew God was in total control and that God always protects His servants that are walking with Him and who trust in Him.

Notice what Elisha told his servant ***"Those who are with us are more than those who are with them"***. (Verse 16)

Remember verse 15 said the whole city of Dothan was surrounded by the Aramean army with horses and chariots.

But Elisha reassured his servant that ***"Those who are with us are more than those who are with them"***. (verse 16)

As Christians we should never forget that The Lord protects faithful believers that trust in Him.

In Isaiah 43:1 – 3a we read ***"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass***

through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”

And in Hebrews 13:6 we read; *“So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”*

Our problem is that many times we chose to remove ourselves from God’s protection by having unconfessed sin in our lives and / or we do not trust The Lord.

Then in verse 17 we read Elisha prayer for his servant, *“O LORD, open his eyes so he may see.” Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

Spiritual eyes not only see what is physical, but spiritual eyes can also see what can be accomplished through the power of Almighty God.

This is one of the most wonderful things about being a believer.

The eyes of an unbeliever cannot see nor can an unbeliever understand spiritual things.

Elisha’s servant represents a lot of us.

Often, we get so overcome by the magnitude of our problem that we are blind to God’s **presence** in our life.

When that happens, we need to remember that the special presence of God is promised to those who love and follow Jesus Christ.

We find the Lord’s promise in Matthew 28:20 and in Hebrews 13:5; *“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”*

Elisha’s servant represents a lot of us.

We often get so overcome by the magnitude of our problem that we are blind to God’s **protection**.

When that happens, we need to remember that wonderful promise in Psalm 34 verse 7 *“The angel of the Lord encamps round about those that fear him, and delivers them”* and also in Romans 8:31 *“If God is for us, who can be against us?”*

The Bible is filled with illustrations of God protecting and rescuing His people.

For example: God shut the mouths of a den full of hungry lions to save Daniel. (Daniel 6)

God protected David on a number of occasions when King Saul was trying to kill him. (1st Samuel 19)

The same God that miraculously released Peter from prison is the same God we worship today and our Lord is more than able to rescue you and me. (Acts 12)

The same God that miraculously restored Paul after he had been stoned in Lystra (Acts 14) is the same God we worship today.

The same God that miraculously rescued Paul and Silas from prison is the same God we worship today and our Lord is more than able to rescue you and I when we are walking closely with Him, when we trust in Him, and when we depend upon Him to protect us.

Elisha's servant represents a lot of us.

We get so overcome by the magnitude of our problem that we are blind to God's provision to provide for our needs.

When we are not able to provide for our physical needs we need to ask The Lord to help us in order to receive His help.

Jesus said, "***You have not, because you ask not.***"

The Bible is also filled with examples of God meeting peoples physicals needs when they fully trust Him.

For example, the children of Israel were in the wilderness for 40 years but their shoes did not wear out. (Deuteronomy 29:5)

When the widow at Zarephath was down to her last meal God provided for her and neither her flour jar **nor** her jug of oil ran out during the drought (1st Kings 17).

God had the ravens feed Elijah when he was east of the Jordan. (1st Kings 17).

We worship that same God today and our Lord is more than able to provide for all of our physical needs when we are obedient and when we trust in Him.

In Matthew 6:25 Jesus said "***Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?***"

In Jeremiah 29:11 God said; "***For I know the plans I have for you,***" ***declares the LORD,*** "***plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future***".

So this morning we all need to ask ourselves; *Do I know God's plan for my life or am I am I blind to what God is trying to accomplish through me.*

Have we become blind to God's plan for us to tell the unsaved people God has put in our life about Him.

Acts 1:8 is crystal clear; ***"you shall be my witness"***.

Have the abundance of physical things in my life blinded me to God's plan for me to share His blessings with those people in need around me?

Remember The Lord loves us so we can love other people; The Lord forgives us so we can forgive others; The Lord blesses us so we can be a blessing to others.

Elisha's servant represents those of us today who concentrate so much on problems and obstacles that we do not see the power of God in our life.

But, before we are too hard on Elisha's servant we need to honestly look at how we apply our faith.

- Do we confidently trust in God's power to protect us when we are afraid?
- Do we confidently depend upon God's healing power when we are sick or injured?
- Do we really believe God can and will turn any bad situation into something beneficial for us?
- Do we focus on God's love and depend upon His companionship when we have been unjustly accused and / or when we are abandoned by our friends?
- Do we confidently rely on God to provide for us when we are down to our last dollar?

The good news is that Jesus came to open our spiritual eyes.

In Luke 4:18 Jesus said ***"The Spirit of The Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor; he has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of The Lord's favor."***

I don't know what your particular need or situation is this morning.

But I do know this; no matter what it is; our Lord is fully able to provide food, shelter, jobs, companionship, protection, and / or healing so that you may give God the glory when your storm passes over.

Whatever life throws at you, God's power, God's presence, God's protection, and God's resources are far greater than your problem!

In all of life's circumstances, Jesus said for us to be of good cheer because Jesus has overcome the world.

Remember Romans 8:31; ***"If God is for you, who can stand against you?"***

As Christians *we are to walk by faith, and not by sight.* (2nd Corinthians 5:7)

God's word to us today challenges us to look beyond our physical problems and circumstances and to look to The Lord to be present with us, to protect us, to provide for us, and to reveal His plans for us..

As Christians we are called to believe that God has something better for us.

We must believe that our trials and the frustrations of today are designed to lead us on a course of intimacy and maturity in our daily walk with Jesus Christ. (James 1: 2-4)

You see sin blinds us but faith in The Lord Jesus opens our spiritual eyes and faith in Jesus allow believers to see what the world cannot see.

In Matthew 5:8 Jesus said; ***“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God”.***

And in 2nd Corinthians 4:18 we are told to ***“fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”***

When our spiritual eyes are open we can see the marvelous things that can be accomplished through the unlimited power of God working in us.

We do not want to miss the keys to having our spiritual eyes opened.

First, we like Elisha must dedicate our life to The Lord.

Secondly, we must walk with The Lord each day.

Thirdly we must believe The Lord's promises and we must put our trust in Him.

Fourth we must pray for The Lord to open our spiritual eyes.

“Elisha prayed, “O Lord open his eyes so that he may see.” (2nd Kings 6:17)

Will you pray for The Lord to open your spiritual eyes so you can see The Lord working in your life.

Will you pray for The Lord to open your spiritual eyes so you can understand The Bible and apply God's word in your daily life.

Will you pray for The Lord to open your spiritual eyes so you can see what The Lord wants to accomplish in your life and in the life of Mt Paran?

This morning we all need evaluate our spiritual eyesight.

We all need to ask ourselves; *am I blind to God's presence, God's protection, God's provisions, and God's plans for my life?*

Am I more like Elisha or am I more like Elisha's servant?

God's word to us today challenges each of us to look beyond our problems and to look to The Lord to be present with us, to protect us, to provide for us, and to use us in accomplishing His plans for us.

AMEN