**Fixing Your Depth Perception**

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INTRODUCTION

**2 Kings 6:15–23 AMP**

15 When the servant of the man of God rose early and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was around the city. Elisha’s servant said to him, Alas, my master! What shall we do? 16 [Elisha] answered, Fear not; for those with us are more than those with them. 17 Then Elisha prayed, Lord, I pray You, open his eyes that he may see. And the Lord opened the young man’s eyes, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. 18 And when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, Smite this people with blindness, I pray You. And God smote them with blindness, as Elisha asked. 19 Elisha said to the Syrians, This is not the way or the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek. And he led them to Samaria. 20 And when they had come into Samaria, Elisha said, Lord, open the eyes of these men that they may see. And the Lord opened their eyes, and they saw. Behold, they were in the midst of Samaria! 21 When the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, My father, shall I slay them? Shall I slay them? 22 [Elisha] answered, You shall not slay them. Would you slay those you have taken captive with your sword and bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and return to their master. 23 So [the king] prepared great provision for them, and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.

Characters

• King of Syria, Ben-Hadad (Enemy)

• King of Israel, Jehoram (Ahab’s Son), Located in Samaria (Capital of Israel)

• Elisha, Prophet of God, Student of Elijah

• Elisha’s Servant

• Syrian Army

• Army of the Lord

Location

• **Dothan** - city on a hill surrounded by plains

• **Samaria** - capital of Israel, 12 miles south of Dothan

Back Story

• Syrian King (Ben-Hadad) was planning a siege against Israel

• Elisha prophetically saw it was coming and gave warning to the King of Israel

• Ben (Syrian King) gets upset and wants Elisha dead

**2 Kings 6:13–14 ESV**

13 And he said, “Go and see where he is, that I may send and seize him.” It was told him, “Behold, he is in Dothan.” 14 So he sent there horses and chariots and a great army, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

FOCUS REVEALS FEAR

**2 Kings 6:15–16 ESV**

15 When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” 16 He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

Same Situation, Different Focus

• Servant sees the army in the physical and is **full of fear**

• Elisha sees the army in the spirit and is **full of faith**

*What they chose to focus on produced faith or fear in them.*

Pray for Vision

**2 Kings 6:17 ESV**

17 Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

**Psalm 121 ESV**

A Song of Ascents. 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? 2 My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. 3 He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. 4 Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. 5 The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. 6 The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. 7 The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. 8 The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

**The Request**

• Elisha doesn’t try to teach his servant, some things cant be taught, they have to be experienced.

*Some people are simply not teachable!*

• Elisha doesn’t speak down to his servant

• Elisha takes the issue directly to the only one that can bring a change to the situation!

**The Result**

• Servant sees, “and he saw”

• Mountain is full of Horses, Chariots of Fire (Elijah) all around Elisha

*I can tell you I’m staying close to Elisha on this one.*

THE WAIT BRINGS THE WEIGHT OF WORRY

**2 Kings 6:18 ESV**

18 And when the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, “Please strike this people with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness in accordance with the prayer of Elisha.

• How long did they have to wait from the time they saw the Syrian army to when the army arrived at their door?

*Also, how did everyone know where everyone live?*

• The time between when God speaks and God acts can allow for “noise” to cloud our ability to see clearly.

• These moments require us to **STOP, BE STILL, BE QUIET.**

**Psalm 46:10 ESV**

10 “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

› **Pause…be still**

The Weight of His Glory

If we can be still and wait on the Lord, the time of waiting will produce a revelation of the Weight of God’s Glory!

You will begin to see life through the eyes of God!

**2 Corinthians 4:8–10 ESV**

8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

**2 Corinthians 4:16–18 ESV**

16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Paul goes on talking about our Heavenly Dwelling in [2 Corinthians 5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Co5)

› How many of us have found ourselves face-to-face with the reality of death in the last year?

Too many times I see that we are caught up in what we see, when our concern should be with what we cannot see!

**The physical is a manifestation of the spiritual!**

Charles Spurgeon Quote:

**2 Kings 2. Elisha Sees His Invisible, Spiritual Protection (14–17)**

“That you have not perceived spiritual things is true; but it is no proof that there are none to perceive. The whole case is like that of the Irishman who tried to upset evidence by non-evidence. Four witnesses saw him commit a murder. He pleaded that he was not guilty, and wished to establish his innocence by producing forty persons who did not see him do it. Of what use would that have been? So, if forty people declare that there is no power of the Holy Ghost going with the word, this only proves that the forty people do not know what others do know.” (Charles Spurgeon, Three Sights Worth Seeing)

Just because others are saying it doesn’t make it true.

Just because others are doing it doesn’t make it right.

*Stop letting the physical lead the spiritual; let the spiritual guide the physical!*

LEADING THE BLIND

**2 Kings 6:18–20 ESV**

18 And when the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, “Please strike this people with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness in accordance with the prayer of Elisha. 19 And Elisha said to them, “This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” And he led them to Samaria. 20 As soon as they entered Samaria, Elisha said, “O Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see.” So the Lord opened their eyes and they saw, and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

• Elisha prays for their **eyes to be shut** - *the soldiers lost their ability to perceive.*

• Elisha leads the whole army 12 miles south to Samaria, the capital of Israel - *not the best place for a group of enemy soldiers*

• As soon as they arrive, Elisha prays to have their eyes opened and their eyes were opened.

Serve the Blind

**2 Kings 6:21–23 ESV**

21 As soon as the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, “My father, shall I strike them down? Shall I strike them down?” 22 He answered, “You shall not strike them down. Would you strike down those whom you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.” 23 So he prepared for them a great feast, and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the Syrians did not come again on raids into the land of Israel.

• An act of kindness resulted in the Syrians no longer coming to raid Israel.

**Galatians 6:1 ESV**

1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

• When helping those that, “don’t know what they don’t know,” you have *handle with care!*

• **THE BLIND DON’T KNOW!**

**Watch Yourself**

• Notice the warning Paul gives here, **“you who are spiritual…keep watch on yourself, lest you be tempted too.”**

• Elisha could’ve easily fallen into the trap of fear and worry, and this story might’ve ended with the end of Elisha.

• When Elisha took the matter to the Lord, he saw victory for himself, his servant, and the entire nation!

Paul, writing to a young man gives him this encouragement:

**2 Timothy 2:25–26 ESV**

25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

THE NEXT SEASON

If you can get through the tough season of waiting, look at what happens next...

**1 Peter 5:6–11 ESV**

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. 10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

…the end of this season results in Restoration, Confirmation, Strengthen, and Establishment.

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