



The Southeast Sower

Southeast Church of Christ

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Open Our Eyes That We May See”

By

Jeff Haught

Have there ever been times in your life when you have felt surrounded or overwhelmed by all of the turmoil going on in the world around you? Have you ever felt totally encompassed and beset with personal tragedy and difficulties, feeling like there is no possible way to escape or overcome them? Let's face it. Whether it is the political and economic upheaval, societal decay, and cultural rot of our nation, or our own personal loss and afflictions that we must face, it can often feel like it all is going to implode and come crashing down upon us. As Christians it is during these times that we must remember to “open our eyes” and see things with the proper perspective - that is, spiritually rather than temporally or physically.

In the sixth chapter of second Kings we can read the account of two men who saw a very perilous

situation quite differently. The king of Aram was becoming frustrated with Elisha the prophet constantly exposing his secret battle plans to the king of Israel, so he devised a plan to capture Elisha at the city of Dothan. His plan was to send a great army of horses and chariots by night to surround the city and capture Elisha. It is enlightening to consider the contrasting reactions of Elisha and his young servant as the morning came when they saw the city surrounded by the enemy.

In verse 15 we read the reaction of Elisha's young servant to the dreadful scene outside the city. *“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?”*

Talk about a sight to wake up to, seeing yourself surrounded by your enemy's massive army. You can imagine the fear, dread and panic that gripped this young man's heart as he gazed out upon what appeared to be a desperate

The Southeast

Church of Christ meets at:

35 Walnut Court

Mogadore, OH 44260

Phone: 330.628.7432

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Bible Study: 10:00 am

Worship: 10:50 am

6:00 pm

Wednesday

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and hopeless situation. In his mind it was all over - no hope, no chance, no escape!

Unfortunately, that is so often the outlook of those who see things with only a temporal or physical perspective like this young man. Don't get me wrong. Obviously we live in a temporal world and must

naturally see things in a physical sense to react, survive and exist here in this life. But failing to see beyond the surface to that which is spiritual leaves God out of the equation, even if for a brief moment of fear and uncertainty. We, like this young man look at our seemingly desperate temporal circumstances and feel fearful as if God is nowhere to be found. Perhaps in our worry and anxiety we feel like God has forgotten about us, and that we are just on our own. Satan enjoys seeing God's people filled with worry, anxiety and fear because these things will keep us from doing the will of our Father. They will paralyze us. The end result of losing our spiritual perspective is our faith becomes weak and our hope becomes shaken.

On the other hand, consider the reaction of Elisha in verse 16 upon seeing the situation and hearing the lament of his young servant. *“So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”* ¹⁷*And Elisha prayed, and said, “LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then 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.”*

How is it that Elisha could be so calm in the face of such a dire situation? How could he be so confident in his statement? There was no one else with him and his servant. There was no visible army present to protect them. Physically speaking this was certainly true. However, spiritually speaking nothing could be further from the truth because there were “special forces” protecting them. Yes, Elisha the prophet could literally see beyond the temporal scenery to the heavenly host of angels protecting him. He knew that God was in control, and that the power of God was greater than anything they would face. His prayer was for this young man to see that, to be reminded of that and be strengthened in his faith. God granted his request. What a startling realization for this young man to have his eyes opened and see such an awesome display of God's power, sovereignty and might surrounding His servants.

Like the young servant, many times we as Christians today see the problems that seem to envelope us in this life with the “closed eyes” of a temporal, earthly outlook. It is a perspective that only takes into consideration the here and now. It is a perspective that leaves God the Father, the Son, and the

Holy Spirit out of the equation, creating worry, anxiety, helplessness and fear. It is during these times we must remember to “open our eyes” and see things with a spiritual outlook. It is a perspective in which worry, anxiety, helplessness and fear are swept away by the strength of the spiritual blessings of love, faith, hope, peace, redemption through Jesus Christ, and a heavenly reward for those who are faithful to the end. It is a perspective that keeps God's precious promises foremost in our hearts and minds, even during the dark days of tragedy, loss, personal affliction, and living in generally uncertain and tumultuous times.

I John 4:4 reads, *“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”* John reminds children of God here of a truth that applies universally beyond the context of false teachers and antichrists. That is, that God will care for those who trust in Him, and that He assures the victory because He is greater than those of the world and the things of the world that oppose and beset His children. Indeed! I pray that are eyes will ever be wide open to that truth!

