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Seeing the Whole Picture (2 Kings 6:8-23)

What is God asking you to do with him in 2022 and why does it feel difficult to do? We need spiritual vision to look past natural obstacles, limitations and fears to see what God is really doing and how He wants us to move forward.

First, let's look at the problems of seeing only with natural vision:

#1 NATURAL VISION only misses the context of our problem

2 Kings 6:8-13, 8 Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place." 9 The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there." 10 So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places. 11 This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?" 12 "None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom." 13 "Go, find out where he is," the king ordered, "so I can send men and capture him..."

Ephesians 6:12, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

#2 NATURAL VISION only is deceptive in describing our problem

2 Kings 6:14-15, "14 Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city. 15 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?"..."

In the presence of a legitimate problem those who forget the promises of God will only see barriers and those who misplace their belief in God will only have fear of man.

Now, let's look at the characteristics of seeing with spiritual vision:

#1 SPIRITUAL VISION must be sought in prayer by faith

2 Kings 6:16-17a, "16 "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see..."

John 14:27, "Let not your hearts be troubled..."

Matthew 28:30, "I am with you always, to the end of the age..."

#2 SPIRITUAL VISION reveals solutions that give God glory

2 Kings 6:17b-20, "17b ...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. 18 As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, "Strike this army with blindness." So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked. 19 Elisha told them, "This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for." And he led them to Samaria. 20 After they entered the city, Elisha said, "Lord, open the eyes of these men so they can see." Then the Lord opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria."

Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

1 John 5:4, "everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that overcomes the world...our faith."

#3 SPIRITUAL VISION leads us to surprising victories

2 Kings 6:21-23, "21 When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, "Shall I kill them, my father..." 22 "Do not kill them," he answered. "Would you kill those you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink & then go back to their master." 23 So he prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So...Aram stopped raiding Israel's territory."

Hebrews 12:2, "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer & perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross.

2 Corinthians 5:7, " For we live by faith, not by sight."

2022 BIBLE READING PLANS

Challenge yourself to read or listen to 1 chapter of the New Testament every weekday this year and use weekends for catching up when you miss. It'll only take about 5-7 minutes a day, but it could change your life!

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