

20240922 Open Our Eyes, Lord - Ps Bijoy

2 Kings 6:17-20

"And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that 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.

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."

Some mornings, I wake up, and everything feels out of focus.

I'll yawn, stretch, and wander into the kitchen for some coffee. By the time my feet touch the cold floor, I'm fully awake, but I still can't seem to get things straight.

And then reality hits: *Today* is here. How am I supposed to get through this day?

My mind fills with thoughts, and my emotions jump in, stirring up all sorts of feelings. Doubts and uncertainties begin to cloud my vision, making it hard to see anything clearly.

Elisha's servant had a morning like this too. One day, he got up early, rubbed the sleep from his eyes, and stepped outside his tent.

Oh no! The enemy's army had surrounded the city during the night. They were trapped, and he was terrified.

He didn't say it exactly like this, but basically, he thought, "We're going to die!" He actually said, "Alas, my master, what shall we do?" (2 Kings 6:15). The word "alas" may sound dramatic to us now, but back then, it meant extreme fear and dread, especially when death seemed close.

So, Elisha gets up, puts on his sandals, steps outside, and calmly says to his servant, "Don't be afraid, because those who are with us are more than those who are with them" (2 Kings 6:16).

Elisha hadn't even had coffee yet, right? The young man probably thought Elisha was seeing things. After all, there was an army surrounding the city, armed with horses and chariots. How could Elisha say not to be afraid? Who was "with them?" They were prophets, not soldiers.

But Elisha saw something his servant couldn't see. If his servant could see what Elisha saw, he wouldn't be scared either. He had eyes of faith, and he knew God's power was greater than any enemy.

So, Elisha prayed for his servant to see what was really there.

"O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see" (2 Kings 6:17).

Then God opened the servant's eyes, and he saw that the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire surrounding Elisha.

Seeing Beyond Our Circumstances

When we can't see clearly with spiritual eyes, we often become fixated on our earthly problems. This happens to us daily. Each day, we wake up and either walk by faith in Jesus or get caught up in our worries and fears. But when God opens the eyes of our hearts, when the eyes of our heart are wide open to God's truth, then the light of his word cuts through the fog.

Paul's Prayer for Spiritual Sight

The Apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesians to have spiritual vision. He asked God, the Father of glory, to give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God. Paul wanted them to have their hearts enlightened to see God's truth clearly (Ephesians 1:17-18).

What Happens When God Opens Our Eyes

When God opens the eyes of our hearts, we begin to see him as he really is. And when we understand who God is, it changes the way we look at ourselves and our problems. Here's what happens when we see through God's eyes:

1. We Understand Our Hope in Christ

We can know the hope God has called us to as Ephesians 1:18 says, "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people."

This hope is solid and unshakable, unlike the false hopes the world offers that slip away.

2. **We Value Our Inheritance in Christ**

We can see the richness of God's glorious inheritance among his people (1:18). This inheritance is eternal, and it helps us dismiss the temporary rewards the world tries to offer.

3. **We Experience God's Power in Our Lives**

We can grasp the incredible greatness of God's power that is working in us who believe (1:19). We can trust in God's mighty power that raised Jesus from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places (1:19–20).

4. **Trusting in God's Mighty Power**

We can see Jesus as he truly is — “far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come” (1:21) — and happily submit anything and everything to him.

The Power of God's Word

When you open your Bible then you can see the flashes of light refracting from the sword of the one who guards your soul from death. The sword of God's word can cut through even the most formidable morning fog of doubt or spiritual apathy.

Since faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ (Rom 10:17), then we would do well to fill our ears with God's word every day. Faith is never the imagining of unreal things. It is the grip of things which cannot be demonstrated to the senses, but which are real. The chariots of horses and fire were actually there.

Finding Peace Through God's Presence

If we want to rejoice in the Lord always and not be anxious about anything, we need to remember that the Lord is near. His presence brings peace. And there's no better place to remind ourselves of his presence than through his word.

But if we feel like God isn't near—if we think he's forgotten us or doesn't care about our struggles—then anxiety takes over. It's easy to worry when it seems like everything is falling apart. In moments like these, we may even ask, like the disciples did, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" (Mark 4:38).

Look to God's Word for Reassurance

When we need reassurance that God cares about us, we only need to look at his word. Open your Bible and see God's plan of redemption unfold from the Fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden all the way to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Spend time in God's word, read it, and ask God to open the eyes of your heart so you can see His love and truth.