

How to Be BRAVE- See It Through

We can be brave when we see God's strength and supply through our weakness and need.

2 Kings 6:15-17 (NIV)

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?" the servant asked. 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." 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.

- Do you wake up in the morning and feel surrounded by issues, needs, and problems?
- When the enemy has a plan to take you out, God has a plan to, not just protect you but to move you forward
- The servant probably expected Elisha to pray for back up but instead he prayed that the servant would see what was already there
- The word of the Lord to us today is, "See It Through."

Connection Between Elisha and Paul

- 2 Kings 6: Elisha is a man of God who is surrounded by the enemy who is trying to kill, steal, destroy his life, to stop him in his tracks
- Philip 4: Paul is writing a NT letter from prison encouraging the people to stand firm, that they can live a life that isn't shaken by every situation, that they can enjoy life, that they can defeat darkness, that they can BE BRAVE. Each week we have discussed how to stand firm, How to Be Brave.
- Both Elisha and Paul had supernatural vision, an ability to see beyond the natural

Philippians 4:11-13 (NIV)

11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:19 (NIV)

19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

- **God has invisible STRENGTH and an unlimited SUPPLY**
- Paul speaks of an invisible strength. Though he was locked up in prison, he was stronger than he looked

- Contentment produces Confidence **Read vs. 11&12**
- If you are content, recognizing that God has given you everything you need, then what can the world take away from you?
- Every fear is rooted in “I might not have enough” or “I might not be enough.”
- But in these 2 verses God demolishes these two fears

It is not your situation that determines your courage, it is the way you see your situation that determines your courage

Ephesians 1:18-20 (NIV)

18 *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, **19** and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength **20** he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,*

Elisha performed more miracles than any other prophet because he had a unique ability to see through the situation

2 Kings 2 One of Elisha’s first miracles: The stream was so polluted that no one could drink from it. Elisha asked for some salt. He put it in the water and it was never unclean again. Jesus said in Matt 5, “You are the salt of the earth...” What the salt did to the water, we can do in the world. God wants to drop us into situations that on the surface seems hopeless. But if we can see through the problem, God can use us as the solution.

2 Kings 3: Elisha is summoned by some kings because of a drought and they needed him to pray for rain. Elisha told them that rain would pour from a place they couldn’t see. How? Because he could see the rain storm in the drought.

2 Kings 4: A widow cries out to Elisha. She was in debt and needed help. Elisha asked her what she had and but it was just a little oil. He said, “That’ll do, now go and gather as many jars as you can find.” She just saw a little oil but Elisha saw pass her supply to God’s supply. God doesn’t see a little bit where you see a little bit. He sees the beginning of a lot. God is not limited by His capability; He is limited by our capacity to receive what He wants to give us.

2 Kings 6: The servant sees something that Elisha doesn’t see because Elisha is sleeping. The kings had surrounded Elisha because when he would pray, he would see when the enemies would attack and he would tell on them. So, they were furious and had come to kill him.

*“Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked. **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.” 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.*

- Elisha said, "Don't be afraid." God commands this more than anything else in the bible
- Notice Elisha didn't ask God to send help. He asked God to open his servant's eyes to see what was already there.
- The servant's physical eyes were open but his spiritual eyes were shut
- The help and the strength you need is already there. The question isn't "Did God send it?" it is, "Can you see it?"
- At first glance it looks like God is insulating Elisha from harm but that's just not what the text says
- Compare verses 15 and 17

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.

19..... and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

- The "Hills" are outside of the "city."
- The help of the Lord isn't standing around you to insulate you from harm
- Your help is here, God's supply and His strength is here.

- **God is SURROUNDING whatever is SURROUNDING you**

- We want God keep us from going through anything, we want God to insulate us from the inside out, "God, don't ever let anything happen to me." We think faith is supposed to insulate us but this just doesn't make sense
- If our faith insulated us from the inside-out then we would think that the strength and supply came from us. We would take credit for what only God can do.

Psalm 121:1-2 (NKJV)

I will lift up my eyes to the hills—From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

- **God gives you the power to SEE IT THROUGH**

- God wants to show you His strength and supply but you might have to see it through your weakness
- Your help is in the hills and your trouble is in the city. We learn to see through the trouble to the hills from where our help comes
- We want God to supply all of our needs to the extent that we never lack but what if the need is a like a lens that enables us to see God's generous supply? We've got to see it through!
- God will show you His faithfulness through your failure, His purpose for you through

your pain

- This week when you are feeling surrounded, BLINK. Open your eyes and see it through!
- You've been seeing it through your eyes but He wants you to see it through His eyes
- Some of the most successful people I know found strength through the struggle (My dad had no father but it drove him to be the best dad he could be.) and it empowered them to accomplish the extraordinary for someone else.
- Elisha was able to offer God's perspective to his servant. Brave rubs off if we let it.

What if you've just been looking at it wrong and God is wanting to show you His strength through your weakness and His supply through your need?

- When God wanted to show us His victory, He used an instrument of death. The Cross is the perfect picture of seeing life through death.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.