

## True Strength in Turbulent Times: “Seeing the Unseen”

Growth Group Discussion

2 Kings 6:8-23

**Opening Questions** (get everyone involved in discussion):

- Stereograms are images containing hidden pictures. Have someone in your group look up stereograms on a phone or device. If possible, display a few of them on a larger monitor. How many of you are able to see the hidden images?
- *Today’s Bible Study deals with seeing something that not everyone is able to see.*
- Begin with prayer. Take at least 30 seconds to be silent, clearing your minds of distractions and preparing to hear from God’s word.

### 1. Read 2 Kings 6:8-17, then discuss the following.

- What reason do Elisha and his servant have to be afraid?
- What is the basis of Elisha’s assurance in v. 16?
- What is the nature of Elisha’s prayer in v. 17?
- What does it seem that the servant is seeing, once his eyes are opened?
- Pastor Josh spoke on Sunday about our need to see three aspects of spiritual reality. The first, which we see here, is **the realm of spiritual forces**.
  - How inclined are you to believe that there is a spiritual realm, with powerful, invisible spiritual beings? Does it seem far-fetched? Overwhelming? What is your response to this assertion?
- In various parts of Scripture, we are told to be aware of this fact for two reasons.
  - One, as Paul describes in Eph. 6:13, is to be on guard against spiritual attack. Have you ever experienced this aspect of spiritual reality? What does it look like to be on guard?
  - The other reason is what we see in 2 Kings 6—to be encouraged by the angelic forces available for our help. Read Psalm 91:9-13. What is the qualification for us to receive this angelic help?
- Are you facing anything that feels like an overwhelming army has surrounded you? Share about that situation as you are comfortable.
- What difference would it make to your situation to have your eyes opened in this way?

### 2. READ 2 Kings 6:18-21 and discuss the following.

- Are you surprised at Elisha’s prayer in v. 18? Why or why not?
- If you were one of the Aramean soldiers, and your eyes were opened inside Samaria (v. 21), what do you think you would feel?
- Pastor Josh said on Sunday that the second aspect of spiritual reality which we must see is **the depth of our sin and its result**.
  - How do you feel about this aspect of spiritual reality? Is it easy for you to see, or do you resist it? Why?
  - The Apostle Paul kept God’s law meticulously, and yet he describes himself as the “worst” of sinner (1 Timothy 1:15). How can both facts be true?

- What, in your life, helped your eyes to be opened to this part of your spiritual reality?

**3. READ 2 Kings 6:22-23 and discuss.**

- What is surprising about Elisha's advice to the king of Israel here? Why would Elisha give this advice, when he has all the angelic armies at his disposal?
- What effect does it seem that this surprise feast has on the Aramean raiding bands?
- Read Matthew 26:50-54. In what way is Elisha's advice in 2 Kings 6 foreshadowing what Jesus would do?
- Pastor Josh said that we need to have our eyes opened to **the feast of grace**.
  - In light of our sin, why is God's gift in Jesus a "feast of grace?"
  - What experiences helped you to come to see this feast of grace?
  - In what ways has this realization changed you?
- READ Ephesians 1:18-19. Paul is here praying for our eyes to be opened. What is he praying that we will see?

**4. Concluding application:**

- We heard that one of the ways we can pursue spiritual sight is to ask for it. In what areas do you need to ask for spiritual sight?
- How might your current situation enable you to see through spiritual lenses?
- Pastor Josh talked about how spiritual sight happens in stages. What is the most recent experience of spiritual sight that you feel you have received?

**PRAYER:**

- Take time to share about and pray for any other needs that exist in your group.
- Pray for one another's spiritual sight, in the specific ways you have discussed. If any have shared about difficult present challenges, be sure to pray for them.