

# Real Faith Brings Real Victory

2 Kings 6:8-23

## Our Text for Today

16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

- What is Real Faith?
- How do you define faith?
- What do you believe your faith looks like?
- How do you truly have “real faith”?
- God defines faith like this...
  - **Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
  - Faith is not something we see
  - **2Corinthians 5:6** Therefore we *are* always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:
  - **7** (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)
  - **Hebrews 10:38** Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.
  - **Hebrews 11:6** But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

- So, if we believe God's Word to be true, we **MUST** have Faith!
  - So, where does faith come from?
  - **Romans 10:17** So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
  - **1 Corinthians 1:18** For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the **power of God**.  
**19** For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.  
**20** Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?  
**21** For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.  
**22** For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:  
**23** But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness;  
**24** But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ **the power of God**, and the **wisdom of God**.
- So, again I ask, what is real faith?
  - Let's go back to Elisha's story
- Syria wanted to take Israel
  - The King was making plans to besiege and ransack
  - He met with his advisors and made secret plans
- God told Elisha the Syrian king's plans

- Elisha told the king of Israel – beware of being at such and such a place, Syria is going to be waiting there to attack you
- This happened 3 times!
  - 3 times Syria laid in wait to surprise Israel
  - 3 times the Syrian soldiers had to tell their king they never saw the Israeli army
  - The Syrian king began to look through his advisors and soldiers to learn who was telling Israel his plans
  - One of the king's servants told him, “you don't have a spy problem, you have a God problem”
- The Syrian king changes his target
  - He no longer wants to kill the king of Israel
  - He wants to kill Elisha the prophet of Israel
  - So he made plans to go after Elisha
  - They went by night to be extra sneaky
  - They surrounded the City Elisha lived in
  - Elisha's servant got up early that morning
    - He went out to take care of his daily duties to find the city surrounded by Israel's enemies
    - He was filled with fear
    - So he ran back to tell Elisha
    - “Elisha, what will **WE** do?”
  - Elisha looks at his intern and says, “fear not!”
    - How could Elisha say such a thing?
    - Why wasn't he filled with fear?
    - He told his intern, “we have greater forces than they do”
    - He then asked God to open the young man's eyes
      - Elisha's intern then could see the Hosts of God's Army surrounding the Syrian army

- Imagine how this young man felt?!
- So, again I ask you, what is **REAL FAITH**?
  - In our story, is it seeing the Army of God?
  - Let's think about something Jesus said to "Doubting Thomas"
    - Jesus had revealed Himself to most of His disciples, but Thomas wasn't there
    - The Disciples tried to tell Thomas, but he said, "I won't believe until I put my finger in His nail scarred hands."
    - We call Him Doubting Thomas because of this
    - He did not have faith
    - Then when Jesus appeared to Thomas, Jesus told him, "here I am, touch the nail scars"
    - **John 20:29** Jesus saith unto him, **Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.**
  - Seeing is not believing
  - Believing is seeing
  - Was Elisha able to see the Lord's Army?
    - Would that have been faith?
  - Did Elisha see the Syrian king's plans?
    - No, God spoke to him, and he believed
    - Faith comes from hearing from God
    - If Elisha hadn't told the king of Israel about what God said, would that have been faith?
      - If you don't do what God's speaks to you can that be real faith?
      - Doesn't James 4 tell us that faith without works is dead?

- It was Elisha's belief in what God said that caused him to tell what he believed
- Are you catching on to what real faith may look like yet?
  - If you believe God's Word to be true
  - If God has spoken to you
  - What has it produced in YOUR life?
  - Faith produces good works
  - Put plainly, if we believe it, it will be evident by our obedience
  - Real Faith is shown in real life by real obedience
- So, did Elisha see the Lord's Army?
  - No, I don't believe he did
  - That would not have been faith
- Elisha did see the Syrian army though, right?
  - I mean he wasn't blind to reality...
  - No, but his reality was that no matter what was obviously in front of him, he knew Who surrounded him
- Look at **1John 4:4** Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because **greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**
  - My flesh is in this world and is always trying to lay a trap to destroy what God is doing in my life
  - But the Spirit God has given me keeps telling me what my flesh is trying to do
  - The Word of God tells me how do stay away from and to win the battle against my flesh...watch this!
- Let's go back to our story...
  - 18 And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray

thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

19 And Elisha said unto them, This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria.

20 And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

21 And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite them? shall I smite them?

22 And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master.

23 And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.

- **Did you see that?!?!?**

- Elisha had faith in God's Power to deliver
- He prayed for God's help against the enemy
  - God blinded the enemy
  - Elisha led them to the King of Israel
  - When the king of Israel said, "what do I do, kill them?"
  - Elisha said, "No, they're subject to you, feed them and keep them in subjection"

- So, that is how we let Real Faith bring Real Victory!!!
  - We trust what God's Word says
  - We trust that God is greater than whatever the enemy tries to do
  - When the enemy comes against us, we pray and ask God to deliver us
  - Then we keep the enemy in service to the Spirit and the Word!!!
- This is too cool man!
- So, what is Real Faith?
  - **Real Faith is trusting the Word of God, following the Wisdom of God, and calling on the Power of God**