

Pastor's Corner

August 2011

Reference Verse: 2 Kings 6: 17 **“And Elisha prayed, ‘O Lord, open his eyes so that he may see.’”**

I suggested in one of the worship services to go home and read the Sunday July 24th Upper Room devotion. It recounts the time that the king of Aram was angered by what Elisha, the prophet, was doing and sent men to capture him. When Elisha's servant rose the next morning and looked outside, they were surrounded by the enemy.

Speaking for myself, there have been times in my life that I have felt that I was surrounded by an enemy. At times, that enemy was real and at other times that enemy was only within my thoughts and mind. It is easy in the world that we live in to look around and to feel, that not only are we being attacked, but that we are surrounded and there simply is no way out.

There are even those times when, in fact, we have created our own enemy in the decisions that we make in our lives. Desires to have treasures of this world drive us to financial ruin as we attempt to be like everyone else, and we are robbed of our true identity. Refusing to trust in the Lord, leads us down paths of despair.

In the book of Job, Satan declares that if he is allowed to take all that Job has, Job will turn against the Lord and “he will surely curse you to your face.” In return the Lord responds by saying to Satan that “...everything that he has is in your hands, but the man himself...”

God never turned his back on Job. God will never turn his back on even the least of his children. But it is the will of Satan to push us into despair and hopelessness, into feeling that we are in fact surrounded by the enemy and have no way to escape.

In the story in 2 Kings, Elisha was following the will of his Lord. But imagine the fear that the servant had when he woke the next morning, surrounded by the enemy. Satan's greatest attack on us is that of fear. Yet, in God's Word we are given assurances of His care. In the book of Psalms these words are written, “Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life, you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me. (Psalm 138:7). In John 14:1, the words of Jesus are recorded, “Do not let your hearts be troubled...” In that same chapter of John we are told that “I will not leave you as orphans,” meaning that we will never be abandoned or left on our own. And then in Psalm 34 verse 17 these words are recorded, “The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.”

I realize that we all face personal battles, and face troubles that seem overwhelming at times. But I encourage each of you to remain strong in the Lord. Be faithful in all that you do, worship and SERVE him with gladness, bring the full tithe into the storehouse, come before his gates with thanksgiving, and know that his grace is sufficient.

“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.” God is greater than any foe that we face or may face. While we personally, or our church, or our country, may be surrounded by an enemy that seeks to destroy our faith, we must remain strong in the Lord. “Do not let your hearts be troubled. TRUST in God, trust also in me (John 14: 1).

Let me close with this poem that I found:

I saw him in the morning light,
he made the day shine clear and bright;
I saw him in the noontide hour,
and gained from him refreshing shower...
I saw him when great losses came,
and found he loved me just the same.
When heavy loads I had to bear,

I found he lightened every care...
For as each day unfolds its light,
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.
Life will, indeed, a blessing bring,
If we SEE GOD IN EVERYTHING.

A.E. Finn

“Lord, open my eyes that I may see, and forgive me for the times that I have allowed doubt and fear to cause me to stray. Amen.”

God bless you,

Rev. Eric Lane

