

**2 Kings 6:15-23 (NIV)** <sup>15</sup> 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, my lord, what shall we do?” the servant asked. <sup>16</sup> “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” <sup>17</sup> And Elisha prayed, “O LORD, open his eyes so 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. <sup>18</sup> As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, “Strike these people with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, “Shall I kill them, my father? Shall I kill them?” <sup>22</sup> “Do not kill them,” he answered. “Would you kill men you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink and then go back to their master.” <sup>23</sup> So he prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel’s territory.

12-06-01-Open Our Eyes to See

protection, prayer, blindness, vision, transformation

2 Kings 6:15-23

Prayer can open eyes of earthly blindness with heavenly vision.

### **INTRODUCTION: (Text as the Scripture Reading)**

–Why do we hear, “*The book was better than the movie?*” It’s because *inner visualization* is more powerful than *visual perception alone*. It’s why intuition speaks louder than intellect, why physical symbols guide spiritual imagination, why “we walk by faith, not by sight.” It’s also why this verbal story in 2nd Kings can open our eyes to spiritual vision.

–[**Background:** Syria’s king kept trying to ambush Israel’s king, but by divine vision, Elisha foresaw this and kept warning his king. When the Syrian king learned why his plots kept failing, he sent an army by night to capture the prophet. When the servant of Elisha awoke to find a deadly Syrian army encircling their city, he was terrified.]

–Elisha wasn’t concerned about the army but about how his servant’s vision was creating fear rather than faith. So he prayed. **HOM.idea.** Prayer can correct poor spiritual insight, especially when our minds are captivated by intimidating circumstances and not...

### **I. Focused on the Reality of Our Divine Resources**

- A. Things looked bad to Elisha’s servant: he was spellbound by the world of *appearances*. (We can often have that problem, too.)
1. The servant saw himself “*surrounded*” by the enemy, and *so will we*, if we perceive those who oppose our King and His people as the enemy. (They’re not the real enemy; they’re *the harvest!*)
  2. Opponents of the Gospel are victims of blindness– **2 Cor 4:4**. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
  3. Our real *enemies* **aren’t people but the hosts of darkness**– **Eph 6:12**. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers **of this dark world** and against the spiritual forces of evil **in the heavenly realms**. (We fight on *two fronts!*)
- B. This servant’s eyes were fixed on a hostile, seemingly hopeless predicament, and he cried out, “*Oh, my lord, what shall we do?*” (We, too, can focus on our circumstances and, in anxiety, make the same or a similar desperate cry, **or** we can pray in faith: “*O Lord God Almighty, You’re in charge here! So, what’s the next step I should take to turn this situation into a way to defeat darkness?*”)

1. Is that a legitimate Christian prayer? It absolutely *is!*— **1 John 4:4**, You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. (The “evil one,” who blinds unbelievers spiritually, has been *defeated* by the resurrected Christ, Who *lives inside each one of us!*)
2. Elisha confronted his servant’s anxious focus with prayer— **v.17**, *And Elisha prayed, “O LORD, open his eyes so 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. (Prayer opens eyes of earthly blindness with heavenly vision. For us, that means seeing the divine reality that Christ is in us and that we are in Him.)*

**TRANS:** Satan intimidates us with what seems to be personal dangers. He tries making us feel **so** “surrounded” by slaves of unbelief that we forget our identity as a people of faith, saved to serve God. He wants us to doubt that Jesus is continuing His incarnational work on earth by His indwelling presence in us. Above all, *Satan does **not** want us...*

## II. Focused on Our Powerful Position in Christ (Why?)

- A. Because it’s a *battle position!*— a position we practice in prayer!
  1. The earthly armor in Eph 6 equips us to fight spiritually “against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers **of this dark world**.”
  2. But to overcome “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms,” we take a *positional stance* in an otherworldly dimension:— **Eph 6:18**, And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.
  3. Preceding any mention of *spiritual warfare* in **Eph 6**, listen to Paul’s words about our spiritual location in Christ—
    - a. **Eph 1:3**, Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us **in the heavenly realms** with every spiritual blessing **in Christ**.
    - b. **Eph 2:6**, And God raised us up **with Christ** and seated us with him **in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus**...
    - c. **Eph 3:10**, His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known **to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms**. (*Did you know **this** about us as believers?*)
  4. As Jesus is in 2 places at once (*on earth* in us and *in heaven* at the Father’s right hand), so are we, especially in prayer.
    - a. It’s **not a metaphor or figurative speech** when God tells us “to draw near to the throne of grace.” It’s a heavenly reality of salvation!

- B. It wasn’t *warrior angels* but **prayer** that captured the *Syrian army* by turning *spiritual blindness* into *physical blindness*, [just as **Saul of Tarsus**, in *religious blindness* hoping to destroy the church in Damascus, was struck with *physical blindness*, until Ananias prayed for his eyes to be opened.]
- C. Ironically, Elisha led these blind Syrians to the one they were after (*Israel’s king* whom they’d kept *trying and failing to bushwhack!*)
- D. When Elisha prayed again that the army’s *blinded eyes be opened*, it brought a time of peace for Israel the sword couldn’t have won — **v.20-23**, *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. When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, “Shall I kill them, my father? Shall I kill them?” “Do not kill them,” he answered. “Would you kill men you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink and then go back to their master.” So he prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel’s territory.*

## CONCLUSION:

—When we rely on our limited earthly view of things, we do not see the bigger picture that God can show us from a heavenly perspective. But have access to heavenly spiritual vision through Christ in prayer.

—Elisha’s servant was blind to divine reality by a fearful focus on what appeared to be dangers surrounding him. The Syrians were blind to prospects of peace by a focus on political hostilities and prejudice. How many thousands of other situations and distractions blind us to God’s provisions and plans for us? Only **prayer can open eyes of earthly blindness with heavenly vision**. If we’re to pray for the eyes of others to be opened to the realities of Christ we must first pray for clarity in our own spiritual vision. Join with me now as we do:

*“Lord, **open our own eyes to see the reality of Your presence in us, and of our spiritual presence before your throne of grace**. We pray that You open the eyes of those around us whose minds have been blinded by the deceiver. Let them see that **You are real** and that **You really are the loving God** Your Holy Word proclaims. Bring them also to this place of spiritual provision and protection in Christ, and to this powerful heavenly position in prayer. In Jesus’ name we pray this. Amen.”*