

Lord, Open Our Eyes
[2 Kings 6:8-17]

Prayer Changes Our Perspective

Big Idea: *Prayer doesn't always change the situation; sometimes prayer changes the way we see the situation.*

Prayer . . .

I. Helps Us See Beyond Our Problems [6:15–16]

Application Question: What problem has become so big in your mind that it is crowding out your awareness of God's presence?

II. Opens Our Eyes to God's Presence [6:17]

Application: Don't only pray for God to change what you are facing. Ask Him to show you where He is at work, what He wants you to learn, and how you can trust Him today.

III. Replaces Fear with Confidence in God [6:16-17]

Application Question: Where is fear influencing your decisions right now? What might change if you approached that situation with a renewed awareness of God's presence?

IV. Teaches Us to Live by What God Has Revealed [Ephesians 1:18]

Question, Reading, Challenge, and Prayer

Question: Where do you most need to see the reality of God's presence right now?

Reading: Read 2 Kings 6:8-17, 2 Corinthians 4:18, Ephesians 1:8, and Romans 8:31.

Challenge: This week, when a problem arises, pause before reacting. Name the problem honestly, remember a biblical truth about God, and ask Him to help you see the situation through the lens of faith. Choose to respond to your circumstances with faith rather than fear.

Prayer: Pray for the Lord to open your eyes to see beyond your problems and recognize His presence.

[2 Kings 6:8-10] Once when the king of Syria [Ben-Hadad II] was warring against Israel, he took counsel with his servants, saying, "At such and such a place shall be my camp." 9 But the man of God [Elisha] sent word to the king of Israel, [Jehoram] "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are going down there." 10 And the king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God told him. Thus he used to warn him, so that he saved himself there more than once or twice.

[2 Kings 6:11-14] And the mind of the king of Syria was greatly troubled because of this thing, and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me who of us is for the king of Israel?" [Ben-Hadad was enraged because he thought that one of his soldiers was tipping the Israelites off.] 12 And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom." [This is an incredible testimony by a non-Israelite as to the supernatural power of a prophet of Yahweh and, indirectly, of Yahweh Himself (cf. 5:17)] 13 And he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and seize him." [make him my prisoner] It was told him, "Behold, he is in Dothan." [Genesis 37:17] [a thriving city near Samaria- 12 miles north of Samaria] 14 So he sent there horses and chariots and a great army, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

[2 Kings 6:15-17] When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." [2 Chronicles 32:7, Psalm 55:18, Romans 8:31] 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. [2 Kings 2:11, Psalm 34:7, 68:17, Zechariah 1:8-10, 6:1-6:7]

[2 Corinthians 4:18] ... we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

[Ephesians 1:18] ... having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ...



"Lord, Open My Eyes"
Elisha [2 Kings 6:8-17]
Discovering How Prayer Opens Our Eyes to the Reality of God's Presence

1. **What do you See? [Read 2 Kings 6:8-17]** Have you ever faced a situation that seemed overwhelming at first but looked different after you had time to pray, reflect, or seek God's wisdom? What changed in your perspective?
2. The servant asked, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" What do you think made him so afraid? What are some circumstances today that can cause us to focus more on our problems than on God's presence?
3. Elisha didn't deny the danger; he simply recognized that the danger wasn't the whole story. What is the difference between pretending a problem doesn't exist and facing it with faith in God?
4. We see in **2 Kings 6:17** that Elisha prayed, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." Why do you think Elisha prayed for the servant's perspective to change rather than simply asking God to remove the enemy? What might this teach us about the way we pray?
5. **Read Ephesians 1:18.** Paul prayed that believers would have "the eyes of your hearts enlightened." What helps you become more aware of God's presence when you feel alone, uncertain, or discouraged? What can make it difficult to recognize His work?
6. **Read Romans 8:31.** The servant counted the enemy's horses and chariots, while Elisha trusted in the greatness of God. Where might fear be influencing your decisions right now? What would it look like to respond to that situation with greater confidence in God?
7. The passage reminds us that God's presence doesn't guarantee that every problem will disappear immediately or that every situation will turn out the way we hope. How can we maintain confidence in God when we don't understand what He is doing? How does knowing Christ give us hope in difficult circumstances?

Take Home Challenge

This week, whenever fear or worry begins to take over, pause and pray the words of Elisha: "O Lord, please open my eyes that I may see" (2 Kings 6:17). Ask God to help you see your circumstances in light of His presence, His promises, and His faithfulness. that person, asking God to use you to be part of the answer to their prayers.