

## Surrounded

“Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them”  
2 Kings 6:16 (NKJV).

Sometimes we feel overwhelmed by life and surrounded by circumstances. I want to encourage you today that no matter what you are facing, you need to remain standing strong in Him. You are surrounded, but not by what you see.

When I was growing up and things were bad, my grandmother would say, “We are in a bucket full of trouble!” It's a silly saying that makes me smile to this day when I think of her. The “Bucket of trouble” indicates being surrounded on all sides by life's pressures.

Elisha and his servant found themselves in this very situation (2 Kings 6:8-23). They had a “bucket full of trouble.” They were facing incredible odds. Everything seemed to be against them. They were fenced in by the enemy. His servant boiled under the pressure, saying in effect, “Help, we're surrounded!” They were in a bucket full of trouble!

Elisha teaches us how to react when we are surrounded. I pray today you are encouraged. I pray today you see exactly what you are “surrounded” by and it's God.

The Syrian King Benhadad had proved a constant irritant to Israel. Frequent border raids were mounted against Jordan's territory in Northern Israel. From 2 Kings 5:18 we know that Benhadad regularly worshiped at the temple of Rimmon, the Syrian god of war. This power-hungry, war-driven King of Syria was a consistent thorn against Israel. His motive behind these acts of aggression was driven lust for power over God's people.

Today its really no different. It just comes in different forms from different people around us. We must be like Elisha! We must learn to discern what is coming against us and Who is with us. When we face a crisis, we have two choices (believe God or not believe Him). We can react as Elisha did in faith with perfect calm, or we can choose the doubtful response of his servant and panic.

Listen, the longer you look upon any difficulty, the bigger it's going to appear. The more you allow it to control your emotions, the more deep rooted it becomes within you.

We must be like Elisha and look to the One who sees what we cannot! We must look to the One where our help comes from. God is the One who enables you to walk through circumstances if you look to Him (v. 17). He surrounds you always.

Can I tell you something? Fear is meditation on the lies of Satan. Fear is the opposite of faith. Fear drives you off the edge. But faith? Oh my friends, faith leads you! Faith grabs hold of the promises of God. Faith brings the greatness of God onto the earth. Our faith is contagious. Elisha's faith activated hope in his servant. Elisha prayed, and the eyes of his servant were opened.

Think about this. They were facing massive forces from the enemy. This young servant was at a complete loss as to the way out. He was freaking out, his imagination conjured up the worst and he cried out in panic (6:15).

Can you relate? Is this not just like us in our hour of trial? When we are faced with the forces of evil (or temptation) do we cry out, "What shall we do?" Do we focus on our insecurities, our weaknesses, or our faults rather than the strength and power of God?

I love how Elisha responds. Elisha was totally undisturbed! Isn't that awesome? I want to be undisturbed. Elisha calmly replies, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them" (6:16). Seriously, is that cool or what? Don't you see? It isn't just for Elisha. Its for us too. More are with you than those with them! This is a biblical truth.

Just as Elisha had God's Word to sustain him, you do too. Just like Elisha knew where his help comes from, so do you. Elisha trusted God! Elisha knew God surrounded him because God always provides (verse 16).

Elisha's servant said "Help, we're surrounded." Are there pressures upon you, people against you, or problems raging before you? Grab hold of the truth! God is watching over you and saying to you, "Fear not."

Gina Cobb  
May 8, 2015