

## **II Kings – Breakthrough blindness**

### **Read II Kings 6:8-23**

I once thought my eyesight was fine except that I can't see things far away well. I was thinking I can live with that since I slowly became get used to it. Then, I went to see my eye doctor and he said "I am close to blind". I couldn't believe that my eyes were so bad, and thus got a pair of eye glasses. At once things were all clear. Spiritual blindness can be very similar where one often doesn't realize how blind one was. Today, we will study an event in II King on Elisha that involves blindness.

The book of I Kings and II Kings used to be one book. I Kings ends with some earlier events of prophet Elijah. The book of II Kings begins with the rest of the actions taken by Elijah (around 850 BC). Then it describes the acts of prophet Elisha and continues on the history of the divided kingdom (northern kingdom of Israel and southern kingdom of Judah). Most of the kings in the northern and southern kingdom had turned away from God and worshiped idols. The nation of Assyria invaded Israel around 722 BC, and the Babylon invaded Judah and finally destroyed Jerusalem around 586 BC. We only concentrate on one miraculous event of God through prophet Elisha today.

#### **1) Can't see when you are blind**

King of Aram (Syria) wanted to capture Elisha because the King of Israel was informed about the military plans of Aram. King of Aram was told that Elisa was the person, and thus sent a strong group of soldiers to find Elisha. Next morning, the servant of Elisha went out and saw the horses and chariots had surrounded the city. He was afraid and seek Elisha for help. Elisha replied "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Why Elisha saw the army from God and his servant couldn't? The servant was not physically blind but was blind in spiritual matters.

#### **2) You can't see but doesn't mean it doesn't exist**

One very important truth is that a blind person can't see things around him/her but it doesn't mean the surrounding doesn't exist. It is very true also for spiritual insights. Verse 17 states that Elisha prayed to God to open the servant's eyes and then he was able to see. The servant saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around them. The servant then had confidence; knowing there were

military strength with horses and chariots in his side. Moreover, those chariots were with “fire” that were better than the enemies’ chariots. How often we are afraid and lack of faith when we don’t see the spiritual matters. The servant didn’t see the horses and chariots and had not recognize the spiritual significance behind God’s army before his eyes were opened which is God was watching over them and was protecting them at all time.

Before I was a Christian, I was spiritually blind about God was the one that created all things, and not aware of His awesome power and wisdom in his creation. “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.” (Rom. 1:20). I really appreciate the details in God’s creation after I became a Christian (Psm. 19:1; Psm 8; Psm 104:24-25). I then realized how blind I was.

### **3) Are you aware of your blindness?**

Elisha did not pray to God to destroy the enemies. His servant might not expect that. God’s army were there and ready. Elisha prayed to the Lord to strike the army with blindness. The enemy army was led in the wrong way subsequently. God’s plan is always better than our own plan. We can’t see God’s protection, guidance, plan, etc. when we are spiritually blind. Blindness is one of the most disadvantageous weakness where it’s spiritually destructive. There are various causes of spiritual blindness:

#### a) Blindness due to one’s ignorance

We often don’t want to think about spiritual matters. We are satisfied or try to be satisfied in the material world and don’t want to think about spiritual matters. It is similar to my case where I thought I can see physically until I got my eye glasses. The same holds true in spiritual matters.

#### b) Blindness due to one’s heart

Some of us might be aware that spiritual matters exists and important but don’t want to persuade it or believes it. (Eph. 4:18; Matt. 13:14-15)

#### c) Blindness due to Satan

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image

of God (II Cor. 4:4). Satan intentionally blind and deceive us and they have been doing that as early as Adam and Eve.

Thus, we must be aware of our blindness and try to think about what we might be blind of.

#### **4) Breakthrough blindness – ask God**

The way to breakthrough blindness is to ask God. Elisha asked God to blind the enemy as well as ask God to open their eyes at the right time. Elisha also asked God to open the eyes of his servant. We can also ask God to open our eyes as well as our friends and families' eyes.

In summary, we need to be aware of our spiritual blindness and that may not be easy. We need to quiet our hearts and mind, and examine areas that we might be blind of. Ask God to open our spiritual eyes to see our true conditions and to see more of Him; His mercy, love, glory, wisdom, will, etc.