

Surrounded
Pastor John Carmichael

[2Ki 6:15-17 NASB95] 15 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

- **The curse, the world, the flesh, and the devil have seemingly surrounded us. Fleshly speaking, it is understandable to panic.**
- **In 2 Kings 6, Elisha and one of his servants (a new one) were surrounded by an opposing army. They were “circling” them.**
 - **The servant was anxious. Simply being around someone of faith does not automatically mean their faith will be in you. He is going to have to receive the impartation of faith.**
 - **The prophet was in quietness of peace. This is how you can tell your faith/trust level.**
 - **The prophet asks God to open the servant’s eyes. The servant needed to learn to see with the eyes of faith.**
 - **God opened the eyes of the servant.**

What does this story reveal to us about how to handle being surrounded?

Here are four revelations about how to handle being surrounded.

I. The anxiety.

- a. It was understandable that this servant was anxious. “What (or How) shall we do?”
- b. God expects us to confront the anxiety in our lives.
- c. [Phl 4:6-7 NASB95] 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- d. Anxiety even when understandable, has to be confronted with trust by means of prayer and replaced with the peace on Christ gives.

II. The assurance.

- a. The prophet’s answer had to seem ridiculous to the servant.
- b. God expects us to live with an assurance based upon His promises in our lives.
- c. [Heb 11:1, 6 NASB95] 1 Now faith is the assurance of [things] hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ... 6 And without faith it is impossible to please [Him,] for he who comes to God must believe that He is and [that] He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
- d. God will speak things that seem ridiculous.
- e. Live with an assurance that God will do what He promises.

III. The ask.

- a. The prophet prays for the servant. In this case, it is to see what God had already provided.
- b. God expects us to ask Him to open our eyes.
- c. [Eph 1:16-21 NASB95] 16 do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention [of you] in my prayers; 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. 18 [I pray that]

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the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. [These are] in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly [places,] 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

- d. Ask God for His promises. Then start seeing yourself with what God has already promised to give.
- e. It is important that we see with our eyes of faith what He has provided for us.

IV. The answer.

- a. The mountain was full of angelic hosts.
- b. God has surrounded us with His promises.
- c. [Psa 34:7 NASB95] 7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.
- d. The angelic protection was not just for them then, but clearly for us now. Every believer, every time.
- e. You are surrounded by everything you need to survive and thrive. [2Pe 1:2-3 NASB95] 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

- **Being assured that God has surrounded you will help you to overcome anxiety as you continue to ask God for His promises.**
- **Confront anxiety, rest in assurance, ask God for help, and expect Him to answer.**