

Times Two pt3 – Miracles Amidst Insecurities

Dr. John Carmichael

[2Ki 2:23-25 NASB95] 23 Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up by the way, young lads came out from the city and mocked him and said to him, "Go up, you baldhead; go up, you baldhead!" 24 When he looked behind him and saw them, he cursed them in the name of the LORD. Then two female bears came out of the woods and tore up forty-two lads of their number. 25 He went from there to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

- Too many people allow the enemy to stop them from accomplishing the purpose of God in their lives due to insecurities. Physical. Intellectual. Financial. Or other insecurities.
- Elisha had to deal with this early on in his ministry.

How can we see God's miracles in our lives amidst our own insecurities?

Here are three concepts that are important to see God's miracles amidst insecurities.

I. Know that the enemy goes for our insecurities.

- a. V. 23 - Baldness can be a point of insecurity for people. The enemy will go for the "jugular." He wants to hit you in the place that hurts us the deepest. He wants us to cower. It can be things like here (physical appearance), intellect, finances, family connections, past sins, or any number of areas of insecurity.
- b. To combat that, we need to grow in the fact that God has made us. [Psa 139:13-14 NASB95] 13 For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. 14 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.
- c. The Apostle Paul provides concepts for dealing with insecurities.
 - i. Get your worth and value by the grace of God only. [1Co 15:9-11 NASB95] 9 For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. 11 Whether then [it was] I or they, so we preach and so you believed.
 - ii. Early church fathers give a description of Paul in Greek as a "man of middling size, and his hair was scanty, and his legs were a little crooked, and his knees were far apart; he had large eyes, and his eyebrows met, and his nose was somewhat long." (<https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/bald-blind-and-single>)
 - iii. Scripture gives some confirmation to that fact. [2Co 10:10 NASB95] 10 For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible."
- d. Do not allow your insecurities to keep back from what God has called you to do. Allow God to heal them so you can be used by God.

II. God wants us to learn to confront our enemies.

- a. V. 24 – Elisha confronted the lads.
- b. How to confront:
 - i. Stand up in boldness. Be healed and confront the issues.
 - ii. Address this physically and spiritually.
 1. There are times when you deal with the people directly.
 2. Hermeneutics Principles:

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- a. Truth in tension: There are times when truth is understanding context. It is not whether you answer but how you answer. There is no guarantee they will listen. [Pro 26:4-5 NASB95] 4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Or you will also be like him. 5 Answer a fool as his folly [deserves,] That he not be wise in his own eyes.
 - b. OT & NT Interpretation – We do not offer bulls and goats because Jesus was the sacrifice. The NT gives progressive revelation over the OT. Jesus would say, “It has been said... but I say to you...” The NT gives progressive revelation for some things.
 - c. Descriptive vs. Prescriptive. Judas hung himself after sinning. (Matt. 27:5). Confess sins. (I John 1:8-9)
 - d. Prescriptive NT: [Rom 12:14 NASB95] 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
 - e. Descriptive NT:
 - i. [1Co 5:5 NASB95] 5 [I have decided] to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.
 - ii. [1Ti 1:20 NASB95] 20 Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.
3. Deal with the demon spirits: Demons affect the people who are opposing God’s plan for us.
- a. [Eph 6:12 NASB95] 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual [forces] of wickedness in the heavenly [places.]
 - b. [Act 16:16-18 NASB95] 16 It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation." 18 She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment.
 - iii. Allow God to confront the enemies. [Rom 12:19-21 NASB95] 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath [of God,] for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. 20 "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

III. Trust that God will specifically help you.

- a. V. 24 – Notice the specifics: 2 female bears tore up 42 lads. Given the fact that there are times when the Bible does not provide specifics, the specifics mean something.
- b. [Psa 138:8 NASB95] 8 The LORD will accomplish what concerns me; Your lovingkindness, O LORD, is everlasting; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.
- c. [Psa 34:19 NASB95] 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.
- d. God is working all things together for your good. Romans 8:28.

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- e. Your miracle may look like God taking care of your opponents.
- **God does not want you to allow the insecurities that the enemy uses against you to keep you from His purpose in your life as you appropriately confront your enemy and allow God to deliver you.**