

PRINCIPLES OF SPIRITUAL ILLUMINATION & ENLIGHTENMENT

The Bible as the Foundation of My Life
Part 7

Ephesians 1:17 – *“I ask the glorious Father and God of our Lord Jesus Christ to give you his Spirit. The Spirit will make you wise and let you understand what it means to know God. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”* (CEV & NIV)

Our Main Points from Last Time: When God Opens My Spiritual Eyes...

1. I see the solution to my problem
2. I see the barrier to my progress
3. I SEE HOW GOD REASSURES ME WHEN I'M AFRAID

The story of Elisha and the Arameans

2 Kings 6:12-23 –

[12] *“It's not us, my lord,” one of the officers replied. ‘Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in the privacy of your bedroom!’*

[13] *The king commanded, ‘Go and find out where Elisha is, and we will send troops to seize him.’ And the report came back: ‘Elisha is at Dothan.’*

[14] *So one night the king of Aram sent a great army with many chariots and horses to surround the city.*

[15] *When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. ‘Ah, my lord, what will we do now?’ he cried out to Elisha.*

[16] *‘Don't be afraid!’ Elisha told him. ‘For there are more on our side than on theirs!’*

[17] *Then Elisha prayed, ‘O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!’ The Lord opened his servant's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.”* (NIV)

[PICTURE – ELISHA SURROUNDED BY CHARIOTS]

Lesson #1 – Appearance is not always reality.

2 Kings 6:15 – *“When the servant of the man of God got up and went out*

early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. 'Oh, my lord, what shall we do?'" (NIV)

Lesson #2 – My faith is strengthened when I know God is near.

2 Kings 6:16 – “Don't be afraid,' the prophet answered. 'Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.'” (NIV)

Lesson #3 – Sometimes God opens my eyes so I can see all the resources He has available to me.

2 Kings 6:17 – “Then Elisha prayed, 'O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!' The Lord opened his servant's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.” (New Living)

Lesson #4 – Sometimes God has a plan completely different from mine.

2 Kings 6:18-20 –

[18] As the Aramean army advanced toward them, Elisha prayed, "O Lord, please make them blind." And the Lord did as Elisha asked.

[19] Then Elisha went out and told them, "You have come the wrong way! This isn't the right city! Follow me, and I will take you to the man you are looking for." And he led them to Samaria.

[20] As soon as they had entered Samaria, Elisha prayed, 'O Lord, now open their eyes and let them see.' And the Lord did, and they discovered that they were in Samaria. (New Living)

Lesson #5 – The easiest way to get rid of an enemy is to turn them into a friend.

2 Kings 6:21-23 –

[21] When the king of Israel saw them, he shouted to Elisha, 'My father, should I kill them?'

[22] 'Of course not!' Elisha told him. 'Do we kill prisoners of war? Give them food and drink and send them home again to their master.'

[23] So the king made a great feast for them and then sent them home to their king. After that, the Aramean raiders stayed away from the land of Israel.” (New Living)

Main Point of the Story: God may not solve your problems in dramatic ways, but He will open your eyes and give you the perspective you need to keep going!

Hebrews 10:36 – “Patient endurance is what you need now, so you will

continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised."
(New Living)

4. I EXPERIENCE THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

The Story of Two Disciples Walking to Emmaus

Lesson: God is always with me but I don't always perceive His presence.
Luke 24:15-29 –

- [15] *As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them;*
[16] *but they were kept from recognizing him.*
[17] *He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast.*
[18] *One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"*
[19] *"What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.*
[20] *The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him;*
[21] *but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.*
[22] *In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning*
[23] *but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.*
[24] *Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."*
[25] *He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!*
[26] *Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"*
[27] *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.*
[28] *As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther.*
[29] *But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. (NIV)*

Lesson #1 – When I'm grieving I often can't see the reality of Jesus' presence.
Lesson #2 – I recognize God's presence when I'm serving others

Luke 24: 30-31 –

[30] *When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.*

[31] *Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.* (NIV)

HOW I PREPARE FOR SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT

1. I MUST START A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

1 Corinthians 2:14 – *“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”* (NIV)

2 Corinthians 4:4 – *“Satan, the god of this evil world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe... They don't understand the message we preach about the glory of Christ...”* (New Living)

2. ASK GOD TO GIVE ME SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION

Psalms 119:18 – *“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.”* (NIV)

3. MAINTAIN A HUMBLE ATTITUDE

Psalms 25:9 – *“He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.”* (NIV)

4. CLEANSE MY HEART OF CONFLICT AND SIN

Matthew 5:8 – *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”* (NIV)

5. COMMIT IN ADVANCE TO DOING WHAT IS RIGHT

Psalms 119:33-34 – *“Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end. Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart.”* (NIV)

James 1:22 – *“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive*

yourselves. Do what it says.” (NIV)