

## Open Our Eyes: Less Fear, More Confidence in Christ

### 1. The Servant Who Panicked — 2 Kings 6:8-15

Even those closest to God can \_\_\_\_\_ when things get \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. The Surprising Ending — 2 Kings 6:18-23

God's ways are \_\_\_\_\_ and often \_\_\_\_\_. More is going on \_\_\_\_\_ us than we can \_\_\_\_\_, and the God who sees it all is on our \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3. Suited Up for a Fight we can't see!

#### The Key Word Is "Stand" — Ephesians 6:13-14

The armor is protective gear for someone \_\_\_\_\_ right where Jesus put them. It doesn't make us \_\_\_\_\_. It makes us \_\_\_\_\_.

### 4. A Quick Tour of the Armor — Ephesians 6:14-18

The belt of \_\_\_\_\_ holds everything together. The breastplate of \_\_\_\_\_ covers the heart. The shoes of the gospel of \_\_\_\_\_ give us firm footing. The shield of \_\_\_\_\_ puts out the flaming arrows. The helmet of \_\_\_\_\_ guards the mind. The sword of the \_\_\_\_\_ is God's Word. \_\_\_\_\_ ties it all together.

### 5. Two Ditches to Avoid

Ditch one is seeing the \_\_\_\_\_ in everything. Ditch two is \_\_\_\_\_ the topic altogether.

### 6. Putting on the Armor Is Putting on Christ

The armor is a \_\_\_\_\_ of Him. We aren't dressing up for battle. We are remembering \_\_\_\_\_ we are.

### 7. The One Who Already Won — Colossians 2:15

That is a \_\_\_\_\_ already won. The fight is real and we still get \_\_\_\_\_.

### 8. Challenge 1: Pray Through the Armor Each Morning

You are simply starting the day by remembering \_\_\_\_\_ you are.

### 9. Challenge 2: Memorize One Verse

When \_\_\_\_\_ shows up, you will already have something to hold on to.

### 10. Challenge 3: Share One Fear and Ask for Prayer

Nobody is meant to \_\_\_\_\_ alone. If someone shares a fear with you, simply pray, "Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ their eyes."

## Scripture References

**Ephesians 6:10-12(NIV), 2 Kings 6:15-17(NIV), Ephesians 6:13-15(NIV), Ephesians 6:16-18(NIV), James 4:7(NIV), John 14:6(NIV), Colossians 2:15(NIV), 1 John 4:4(NIV)**

## Discussion Questions

Be honest: how do you tend to react to the topic of spiritual warfare? Do you lean in too far, back away, or sit somewhere in between? Why do you think that is?

Elisha's servant panicked even though he had served alongside a prophet. Why do you think fear can hit hardest for those closest to God? When have you experienced something similar?

Elisha prayed 'Open his eyes' rather than 'Make him braver.' In what area of your life might you need clearer sight more than extra willpower?

The sermon described two ditches: seeing the devil in everything and ignoring the topic altogether. Which ditch are you more likely to fall into, and what might help you stay on the road?

Paul repeats the word 'stand' throughout Ephesians 6:13-14. What difference does it make to think of the armor as gear for standing steady rather than for charging out to fight?

Which piece of the armor (truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, the Word, prayer) do you most need to put on right now, and why?

Colossians 2:15 says Christ has already triumphed over the powers. How does it change the way you face fear to know you are standing in a victory rather than fighting for one?

First John 4:4 says the greater one is in us, not just beside us. What might change in your daily life if you lived as though that were true?

Which of the three challenges (pray through the armor, memorize a verse, share a fear with a fellow believer) feels most helpful or most difficult for you this week? What would help you follow through?

## Key Takeaways

- Our strength is in the Lord and in his mighty power, not in ourselves or in how tightly we grip the sword.
- Fear is not a sign of failed faith. It showed up even in Elisha's household, and God responded with kindness, not shame.
- Often our deepest need is not more courage but clearer sight. Pray, 'Lord, open my eyes.'
- More is going on around us than we can see, and 'those who are with us are more than those who are with them.'
- The armor of God is for standing steady where Jesus has placed us, not for hunting spiritual monsters.
- Avoid both ditches: don't blame the devil for everything, and don't ignore Paul's call to be alert. Submit to God first, then resist the devil.
- Putting on the armor is putting on Christ, who is our truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and Word.
- Jesus has already won the victory at the cross, so we stand in his victory rather than fight for our own.
- This week: pray through the armor each morning, memorize one verse, and share one fear with a fellow believer.

## Additional Notes

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Background on Elisha: Elisha was a prophet in Israel during the ninth century B.C. who succeeded Elijah. In 2 Kings 6 he is shown as a man whose insight into the Aramean king's private plans helped protect Israel.

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Background on Ephesians 6: Paul wrote this letter to the church while in prison, likely under the watch of Roman soldiers. His armor imagery draws from the equipment of a soldier, and it echoes themes found in Isaiah 11:5 and Isaiah 59:17.

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The Greek word behind 'schemes' in Ephesians 6:11 can also be translated 'wiles' or 'strategies,' pointing to the enemy's tactic of deception. This is why the belt of truth comes first.

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Suggested daily armor prayer: 'Lord, today I put on your truth, your righteousness, your peace. I lift up faith, I take your salvation, and I ask for help using your Word.'

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Suggested prayer for a friend: 'Lord, open their eyes.' Pray this instead of offering a lecture when someone shares a fear with you.

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Additional passages for further study: Psalm 34:7, Psalm 91, Romans 8:31-39, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Hebrews 1:14, and 1 Peter 5:8-9.

## Answer Key

1. **panic; big**
2. **creative; surprising; around; see; side**
3. **planted; aggressive; steady**
4. **truth; righteousness; peace; faith; salvation; Spirit; Prayer**
5. **devil; ignoring**
6. **portrait; whose**
7. **victory; tired**
8. **whose**
9. **fear**
10. **stand; open**