

Loving God & Loving Others Biblically



Loving God & Loving Others
through
Biblical Meditation



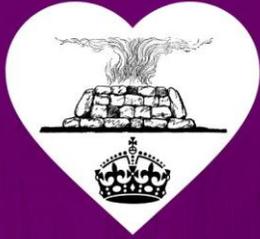
Loving God & Loving Others
through
Biblical Prayer



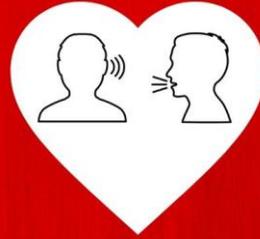
Loving God & Loving Others
through
Biblical Discernment



Loving God & Loving Others
through
Biblical Worship



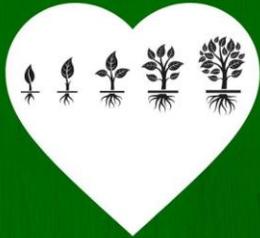
Loving God & Loving Others
through
Biblical Communication



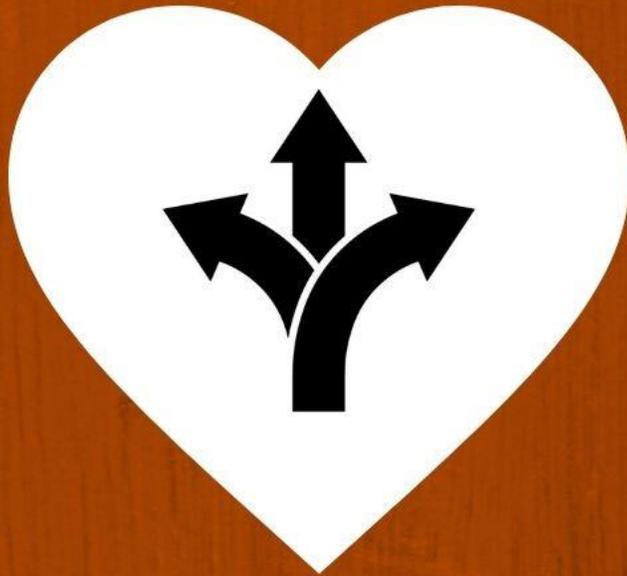
Loving God & Loving Others
through
Biblical Generosity



Loving God & Loving Others
through
Biblical Discipleship



Loving God & Loving Others
through
Biblical Discernment



A Biblical Response to Fear
2 Kings 6:8-23

Important Details

- Elisha the prophet had been doing some amazing miracles and prophesying through the power of God. **(2 Kings 2-5)**
- Most recently, he had been divinely appointed to cause an axe head to float after it had sunk under the water. **(2 Kings 6:1-7)**

Important Details

- In **2 Kings 5**, Elisha miraculously healed Naaman from his leprosy. Naaman was a high-ranking Syrian military officer.
- Naaman, who was a sworn enemy of Israel, personally experienced the grace and power of God and became a worshiper of the true God.

Important Details

- Syria was a constant enemy of Israel and would continue to be a thorn in their side for years to come.
 - *[In Hebrew, “Syria” or “the Syrians” is written as “Aram” (a son of Shem) or “the Arameans.”]*
- God used the Syrians (or Arameans) many times as a source of punishment on the disobedient kingdom of Israel.

Important Details

- **Samaria** was the capital city of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
- **Dothan**, the city where Elisha was located, was about 10 miles north of Samaria.
- **Damascus** was the capital city of Syria.



THE TEXT – 2 Kings 6:8-23

- Elisha was being used by God to make Israel's king (Jehoram) aware of top-secret Syrian military movements, which helped the Israeli army to protect their country. **(6:8-10)**
- The Syrian king suspected a Syrian traitor, but was informed that Elisha was the one who was thwarting his plans. **(6:11-12)**

THE TEXT – 2 Kings 6:8-23

- The king of Syria sends a large military force, complete with chariots and horsemen, by night to surround the city of Dothan, where Elisha was located.
(6:13-14)
- Elisha's servant wakes up in the morning to find this large Syrian military force completely surrounding the city. He was naturally very afraid and asks Elisha a question that highlights his fear and terror.
(6:15)

THE TEXT – 2 Kings 6:8-23

- Elisha responds with a gentle, calm, and firm word of encouragement. But that's not all—*Elisha tells him why he has very good reason to, “Not be afraid!” (6:16)*
- Elisha intercedes with prayer to God on behalf of his *young* servant's fears. God answers by opening the servant's eyes to see the supernatural yet very present reality of God's protection. **(6:17)**

Psalm 27:1-5

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; ***whom shall I fear?*** The LORD is the stronghold of my life; ***of whom shall I be afraid?***

² When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

³ Though an army encamp against me, ***my heart shall not fear***; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

Psalm 27:1-5

⁴ One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.

⁵ For He will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; He will conceal me under the cover of his tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.

Psalm 34:7-8

⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

⁸ Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

THE TEXT – 2 Kings 6:8-23

- Elisha asks God to weaken the Syrian army with temporary “blindness” (*Genesis 19:11*). God saves Elisha, his servant, and the entire city—and causes the Syrian invaders to become Elisha’s prisoners. **(6:18)**
- Elisha pursues being a peacemaker towards his enemies rather than yielding to a plan of revenge and death. God blesses Israel with temporary peace with Syria. **(6:19-23)**

**FIVE OBSERVATIONS
CONCERNING
BIBLICAL FAITH'S
RESPONSE TO FEAR**

FIVE OBSERVATIONS

1. Biblical faith acknowledges the **reality** of the fear of man.
 - *There is a huge difference, however, between **acknowledging** the reality of fear and either (a) **yielding** and being **controlled** by fear, or (b) **ignoring** fear.*
 - *In every situation, but especially in fearful times, **God's glory** is the ultimate focus of biblical faith.*

FIVE OBSERVATIONS

2. Biblical faith seeks God's help and guidance through **prayer** when confronted with the fear of man.
 - *Elisha did not mock his friend's fears.*
 - *Elisha prayed for his friend's fears to be countered with the power of God.*
 - *Elisha pointed his friend to the **worship** of God through prayer instead of focusing on fear's temptations.*

FIVE OBSERVATIONS

3. Biblical faith confesses the **weakness** of man when confronted by fear.
 - *Fear tempts us to shift our focus from God's glory to our own weaknesses.*
 - *Biblical faith ultimately rests in and is moored to the sufficiency of God's inerrant and all-sufficient Word.*

FIVE OBSERVATIONS

4. Biblical faith is **active** (not passive) in pursuing godly living.
 - *Elisha did not stay hidden, but went out to meet his adversaries in faith.*
 - *Elisha did not seek evil on his enemies but sought to bless them.*

Romans 12:17-21

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

Romans 12:17-21

²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

FIVE OBSERVATIONS

4. Biblical faith is **active** (not passive) in pursuing godly living.
 - *Elisha did not stay hidden, but went out to meet his adversaries in faith.*
 - *Elisha did not seek evil on his enemies but sought to bless them.*
 - *Biblical faith never allows fear to stop believers from living or functioning for the glory of God!*

FIVE OBSERVATIONS

5. Biblical faith is impossible to live out apart from God's grace, truth, and presence.
 - *2 Kings 2:9-14*
 - *Ephesians 2:8-10*
 - *Hebrews 11:6*
 - *Romans 5:1-5*

1 John 4:1-4

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many **false prophets** have gone out into the world.

² By this you know **the Spirit of God**: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the **antichrist**, which you heard was coming and **now is in the world already**.

1 John 4:1-4

4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, *for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

2 Kings 6:16

“Do not be afraid, *for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.*”

BIG IDEA:

**Pursue the glory of God
with biblical faith,
~~even~~ *especially* when
you are afraid.**

FIVE QUESTIONS

1. Have you honestly **acknowledged your fear(s)** before God (*instead of ignoring them or letting them control you*)?

FIVE QUESTIONS

2. Have you sought God's help and guidance through **prayer** regarding your fear(s)?

FIVE QUESTIONS

3. Have you humbly confessed your **weakness** to God regarding your fear(s)?

FIVE QUESTIONS

4. Are there any areas in your life where, because of your fear(s), you have become **passive** in pursuing godly living?

FIVE QUESTIONS

5. Are you **content** or discontent with the reality that you cannot live a life of biblical faith apart from God's grace, truth, and presence?

THREE WORDS OF APPLICATION

1. God **loves** you and does not want you to be controlled by fear.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

THREE WORDS OF APPLICATION

1. God **loves** you and does not want you to be controlled by fear.

1 John 4:18-19

¹⁸ *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.* For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

¹⁹ We love because He first loved us.

THREE WORDS OF APPLICATION

2. God **loves** His children too much to let them be controlled by fear.

Hebrews 13:5-6

⁵ Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, ***for He has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."***

⁶ So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; ***I will not fear; what can man do to me?"***

THREE WORDS OF APPLICATION

2. God **loves** His children too much to let them be controlled by fear.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

THREE WORDS OF APPLICATION

3. If you are a Christian, we know the end of the story: ***God wins and you are on the winning side!***

Nothing will ever separate Christians from God's love and care.

Romans 8:35-39

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ No, in all these things ***we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*** ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, ***nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

BIG IDEA:

**Pursue the glory of God
with biblical faith,
especially when
you are afraid.**

1 Peter 5:6-11

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you,

⁷ *casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.*

⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:6-11

⁹ *Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*

¹⁰ *And after you have suffered a little while, **the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.***

¹¹ *To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

BIG IDEA:

**Pursue the glory of God
with biblical faith,
especially when
you are afraid.**