

THE OPENING OF THE EYES



*And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD,
I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see...
LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see.
—2 Kings 6:17, 20*

How wonderfully the prayer of Elisha for his servant was answered! The young man saw the mountain full of chariots of fire and horsemen surrounding Elisha. The heavenly host had been sent by God to protect the Lord's servant.

Then Elisha prayed a second time. The Syrian army had been stricken with blindness and were led into Samaria. There Elisha prayed for the opening of their eyes, and they found themselves hopeless prisoners in the hand of the enemy.

We ought to use these prayers in the spiritual sphere. First of all, we ought to ask that our eyes may see the wonderful provision that God has made for His church, in the baptism with the Holy Spirit and with fire. (See Matthew 3:11.) All the powers of the heavenly world are at our disposal in the service of the heavenly kingdom. How little the children of God live in the faith of that heavenly vision—the power of the Holy Spirit on them, with them, and in them, for their own spiritual life and as their strength to joyfully witness for their Lord and His work!

But we will find that we need that second prayer, too, so that God may open the eyes of those of His children who do not yet see the power that the world and sin have upon His people. They are still unaware of the feebleness that marks the church, making it powerless to do the work of winning souls for Christ and building up believers for a life of holiness and fruitfulness. Let us pray especially that God may open all eyes to see what the great and fundamental need of the church is—to bring down His blessing in intercession, so that the power of the Spirit may be known unceasingly in its divine effectiveness and blessing.

Our Father, who is in heaven, You who are so unspeakably willing to give us the Holy Spirit in power, hear our humble prayer. Open our eyes, we pray, so that we may realize fully the low estate of Your church, and that we may know as fully what treasures of grace and power You are willing to bestow in answer to the fervent prayer of a united church. Amen.