



Devoted: Open My Eyes

Daniel 10:10-14

Read Daniel 10:10-14 together:

And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come."

Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

2 Kings 6:17

Learning from the Past

Open my eyes that I may see.

- ? Why doesn't the Lord allow us to physically see all the spiritual forces fighting with us? Wouldn't that give us much more confidence in our spiritual battles? Why or why not?
- ? Why is control so important in our daily lives? How does this often trip us up?
- ? Read Matthew 7:3-5.

Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

How can we tell whether we're being judgmental or biblical in our confrontation with other believers?

- ? Read Psalm 51. Why is it so important to have a broken heart as a believer? What takes place when we don't?

*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.*

Psalm 51:7–12

Living in the Present

- ? You are loved by God.
- Why is this truth so important to us?
 - At times, do you find this hard to believe? Why or why not?
- ? God is for you.
- Why is it so hard to forgive?
 - Is it difficult to feel fully forgiven by God? Why or why not?

Looking to the Future

- ? The struggle is real.
- How is it possible to have peace and confidence in the future when our present is so difficult? Before you simply answer, “pray more, read your Bible more, go to church more,” remember there’s a difference between surface peace and settled peace. How does one gain settled peace with our immediate future in such doubt?
 - How can you determine whether the battle you’re facing is because of your own choosing or is a spiritual battle? How are the two kinds of battles handled differently? Are they different? Why or why not?
- ? Prayer and fasting
- Confession is a daily discipline. Why?
 - Repentance is a daily requirement. What’s the difference between guilt and repentance?

Motivations for Fasting

- ? Is fear a good motivating factor or a destructive motivating factor when being driven to change?
- ? Should hell be a motivating factor that leads us to fasting? Why or why not?

- ? What fears are most spoken about in your home? How are they generally resolved? Is the method of solving them drawing your family to dependence upon Christ or is it teaching your children to cope without the power of the Word? How have you used the Hebrews 4:12 power of the Word to help restore you or your family in crisis?
- ? How can the discipline of prayer and fasting help one in sorrow? Is it more effective if this discipline is in place before finding oneself in deep sorrow? Why or why not?
- ? How does the discipline of prayer and fasting help one to prepare for an overwhelming crisis? How does this discipline help us to hear and discern the voice of God with greater clarity?
- ? Why is control or the *illusion* of control such a powerful motivating factor in our everyday lives? Since the future is unknown, how does one find comfort in personal control? How does one, through prayer and fasting, relinquish control?

“The world is perishing for lack of the knowledge of God and the Church is famishing for want of His Presence. The instant cure of most of our religious ills would be to enter the Presence in spiritual experience, to become suddenly aware that we are in God and that God is in us. This would lift us out of our pitiful narrowness and cause our hearts to be enlarged. This would burn away the impurities from our lives as the bugs and fungi were burned away by the fire that dwelt in the bush.”

A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*