

## DON'T BELIEVE IT! (Part 2)

Scripture used: [II Kings 6:13-17 \(NIV\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon continued our sermon series "Don't Believe It!" We're examining different claims made by society, and how they keep us from a fulfilling life. This week's claim is about "superpowers". Comic books and movies tap into the secret desire we all share: to be a superhero! Unfortunately, we don't have any superpowers, or at least that's what we think, and we are tempted to believe that the only resources we can draw on are our own. But don't believe it! As Jesus followers, the truth is that prayer can be our superpower. Pastor Hurmon used the story of Elisha defeating and then forgiving the armies of the King of Aram to explain how prayer can reshape the world to better conform to God's plans.

### KEY POINTS

- 1) **Prayer is simple.** Elisha is conversational with God. He does not need to be overly formal or complex. He is clear about his requests and then moved ahead. Elisha was confident that God would do His part, since Elisha had been receiving revelations about the King of Aram's plans as described in [II Kings 6:12 \(NIV\)](#).
- 2) **Prayer is short, but regular.** Elisha does not say very much to God each time he prays. But he frequently comes back to God to ask something, give thanks, or just share something. In 5 verses he prayed 3 times!
- 3) **Prayer is relational.** Elisha does not use the more formal terms to refer to God: *Elohim* or *El Shaddai*. Instead he uses the informal *Yahweh*, or "Lord." Elisha prays to God as someone He knows, someone with whom he has a deep personal relationship. God is not an abstract idea or impersonal force.
- 4) **Prayer is powerful.** Through prayer, Elisha had access to an unseen reality. Prayerful people see the world differently. They tend not to overreact or be afraid because God is clearly at work in the world. This perspective gives them confidence. Elisha demonstrated this by knowing exactly how to handle the armies of Aram in [II Kings 6:18 \(NIV\)](#): he struck them with blindness.
- 5) **Prayer changes circumstances and relationships.** Elisha led the armies of Aram into Samaria, where they were surrounded. The Israelite king wanted to kill them all, but Elisha knew that was wrong. God commanded that they instead feast with them in [II Kings 6:22-23 \(NIV\)](#). This completely changed the relationship between the neighboring kingdoms. God used Elisha as a part of His plan to stop the constant warfare by overcoming evil with good. This is the same command that Paul issues to all Jesus followers in [Romans 12:21 \(NIV\)](#).
- 6) **But prayer is not all-powerful - only God is.** We often pray but don't receive the answer for which we hope. The Israelites were enslaved in Egypt for 450 years. Joseph rotted in prison for over 10 years for no reason. Job lost his fortune, family, and health. Even Jesus on the cross prayed, hoping for an end to suffering. But he finished by saying in [Matthew 26:39 \(NLT\)](#) that He wanted God's will to be done. Prayer has to operate within God's boundaries, and His plan for the world. Even when God doesn't answer prayer in the way we hope, there is often a "divine reversal" where God uses circumstances we wouldn't choose for ourselves for redemptive purposes. God always has the last word in our lives, and His last word is one of love, forgiveness, grace, and eternal life.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Think about the descriptions of prayer that Pastor Hurmon gave us this week: simple, short, relational. Do you pray this way? If not, how is your style of prayer different?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Elisha's servant saw the armies of Aram surrounding their village and panicked. He didn't yet have a relationship with God that allowed him to see the hosts of the Lord protecting them. What area of your life is troubling you right now? Where do you feel surrounded on all sides? Have you prayed to God to see the situation from His perspective? How do you think that will change things?
- 3) **DO** - Continue the practice of reciting the [Peace Prayer of Saint Francis](#) for a second week. Expand this practice by saying to God "Lord, I will explore prayer, my real superpower!"