

Introduction:

- "I see said the blind man who picked up the hammer and SAW!" I see said the once blind man, no longer filled with fear.
- "Blinding Laser Weapons" are weapons that are designed to blind soldiers on the field of battle. Most countries adhere to international law to minimize the power of their lasers. China, however, instead of limiting the power of such weapons, took full advantage of the potential, developing the battery-powered ZM-87 Portable Laser Disturber. Its desired effect was to injure or dizzy the eyes of enemy combatants. By seeking to blind the enemy, they render them unable to fight. I've never thought much about the tactics of war, but it makes a lot of sense that a soldier doesn't have to be *destroyed* in order to be rendered useless. Blinding them is enough. Though effective in its main objective of blinding the target, the weapon had several technical glitches and was subsequently retired. No doubt, however, the Chinese will continue their efforts to perfect a reliable model. APPLICATION: Satan doesn't have to get rid of us to take us out of the battle. All he needs to do us render us useless by blinding us to the truth. "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:4). Roblin, Sebastien (12 May 2018). "[China's Laser Guns: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Them](#)". *The National Interest*. One of the ways Satan blinds us is with fear. We are going to look at this today from two passages.
 - "*Then Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!" The Lord opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.*" (2 Kings 6:17, NLT)
 - "*But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers.*" (Luke 22:32, NLT)

I. I See! Fear Blinds Me From The Truth

- Let's review: **Fear** is an emotion stirred up by a perceived threat which causes people to quickly pull away from the thing or person feared. Usually to hide.
 - Another aspect of fear are phobias: "An exaggerated, usually inexplicable and illogical, fear of a particular object, class of objects or situation."
 - 1 Jn 4:18 says that fear is its own punishment. Ie. Punisher skull logo.
 - 2 Tim 1:7 says that fear is a spirit that does not belong to a believer.
 - Fear** is found all through the Bible. Ie. Adam and Eve hid from God, Elijah hid from Jezebel, Gideon was insecure and hid from the Midianites, David was afraid, the twelve disciples dealt with fear (fear of drowning, fear of people, fear of abandonment), etc. So we find fear all through the Bible and at the same time. One of the most repeated phrases by God in scripture is, "Do not be afraid."
- Fear greatly affects the quality of our lives. Fear is frequently related to the specific behaviors of escape and avoidance, thus it affects the quality of our relationships.
 - fear erects walls between people, spouses, parents and children, etc. divides us/blinds us from seeing the goodness in others or the grace in others that is meant to be shared with us.

2. fear affects our intimacy. It blinds us to love. It does not let people get in too close and it doesn't let God get too close.
 3. fear affects us physically. So many diseases, physical and mental are rooted in fear. It blinds us to the health that we have been given.
- C. Fear affects how you live and how you enjoy life. People who live in fear are blind to what they could have in Christ and in relationship with others.
- D. Fear is the root of other 'fear words' such as worry, anxiety, insecurity, phobias and unbelief. Fear is an enemy of your soul, a tormenter, and slave owner.
- E. Fear attacks the very foundation of our relationship with God...our faith! Fear is having more faith in the devil than in God. We call that unbelief. When we have more faith in the devil, know you are believing the lies and the Father of lies.
- F. Fear, like bitterness and unforgiveness, attracts other demonic entities and activities to it. Fear stinks! And it attracts flies! Therefore we must see fear as an enemy of our souls and take the fight to it. We do not want fear attracting other unclean things in our lives. **Stand your ground, work the Word and dismantle fear!**
- G. Casting down vain imaginations (2 Cor 10:3-5) is the first key to real spiritual victory.
1. The devil wants to birth and magnify fear through your imagination. We need to sanctify our imaginations with the washing of the Word.
 2. We can wander into the stormy sea of imaginations but God has given us His Word to calm that stormy.
 3. IE. Vain imaginations can be so serious that some people will even leave good churches because of imaginary offenses. Somebody imagined that somebody thought something about them. Before they know it, they're giving life to corrupted thoughts, changing churches and abandoning life-long friendships. They find themselves out of the plan of God and wondering what happened. Left unchecked these vain imaginations, perceived threats, and misplaced threats blind us from the truth. God open our eyes to see correctly that we might unleash our faith! We shall now look at two people in scripture whose eyes were opened to truth.

II. "I See!" Said The Blind Servant, Whose Eyes Were Opened By God

- A. The story: The Aramean wants to sack Israel. Elisha the prophet hears his plans and tells the King of Israel. *"Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."* 2 Kings 6:12 NLT
- B. Fear is based on what it sees! Two things empower the vision of fear:
1. Fear is empowered by or based on perceptions, imaginations, phobias and false evidence appearing real. Ie. The media exports fear based stories, to keep you coming back.
 2. Fear is empowered or based on what is true. Ie. You can get a bad report from a doctor that is true. But it is not Truth.
 3. Elisha's servant, saw that they (and the city, Dothan) were surrounded by Aramean army. vs. 15 of troops, horses and chariots. Surrounded in the natural. The servant, being afraid, says, *"What shall we do?"*

4. What was he seeing as he looked at Aramean warriors surrounding the city that he and Elisha were staying in? What ever it was, it was not good for the servant was filled with fear.
 - a) He may have seen himself being beaten and taken into slavery.
 - b) He may have seen himself being stabbed and or burned in a building.
 - c) He may have seen himself having his eyes gouged out or tongue cut out.
 5. What ever he saw caused him to be afraid and it sucked the faith right out of him! This is always the enemies plan: divert your river of faith to the devil himself. Make the servant believe that the devil is more powerful than God...we call that - doubt and unbelief.
- C. Elisha prayed
1. "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see," If you are in fear you need your eyes opened to the truth...faith in God.
 2. Suddenly the servant saw the mountains full of the host of heaven (2 Kings 6:17).
 3. When the servant only saw the human side of things, he was overcome by fear because he saw *wrongly*. But when, by the Spirit's power, he saw *rightly*, his faith revived and his fear melted away. "for we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7, ESV) You will not be afraid unless the situation you face is bigger than the God you serve.
 4. What are you seeing today?
- D. Elisha prayed for his servant, and he saw the spiritual reality...chariots of fire!
1. The formerly fearful man became full of faith.
 2. Are we fearful? Do we find ourselves easily intimidated into silence or inaction or even outright denials?
 3. If we are blind to what God is doing or desires to do we will see wrongly. But seeing rightly causes faith to explode in us.
 4. If we would see what God is doing in the spiritual realm we would stop speaking negatively and begin making decrees by confession of faith....based on who God is and what He has said!
- E. When the servant's eyes are opened the enemies eyes are blinded! WhoooHoooo! vs. 18
- F. "I see!" said the once blind servant whose eyes were opened by God!

III. "I See!" Said The Blind Disciple, Who Now Was Filled With Faith

- A. Satan desires to sift us. When you sift something you do it for the purpose of separation. I.e. You can sift flour. You can sift sand. You can sift wheat. Sifting is for the purpose of separating.
1. Satan wants to separate you from God. So he shakes you and tosses you around to fill you with a fear.
 2. That fear will divert your faith from God to the devil.
 3. When that happens your destiny will be aborted. You will not fulfill the purpose for which you were created.
- B. Jesus saw something in Peter.
1. He saw he was about to be sifted/separated and it would not be good.
 2. Jesus 'sees' something in Peter, BUT, Jesus did not get afraid or filled with fear. He prayed! Some of you God can't show you things because you can't handle it. It would just move you into fear. To be an intercessor takes faith! Look what Jesus did...

- C. But Jesus prayed for Peter *"Satan desire to sift you ... But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers."* (Luke 22:32, NLT) when you turn to me again implies separation from sifting.
1. Like Elisha's servant, Peter had someone praying for him that his eyes would be opened.
 2. Isn't it good to know that someone is praying for your faith and that your eyes would be opened! It's not over just because you were separated...RETURN!
- D. Fear is based on what it sees. Now Jesus was on trial. What in the world happened to Peter that made him do exactly what he swore he would not do?
1. Seeing in the natural got Peter in trouble! (See also, the wind and waves he saw.) Seeing the waves caused him to start to sink. Mt 14:30.
 2. Fear robbed his faith. Diverted it to unbelief. And seeing wrongly leads to failing faith.
 - a) That was the root issue: how things looked. Don't let how things look steal your faith!
 - b) The things Jesus said would happen were indeed happening, but Peter's mind was still set on the things of man, not God.
 - c) He was only seeing the human side of things, so it looked like everything was happening *wrongly*. **This sucked the faith right out of him – and filled him with fear.**
 3. Peter had sworn he would die with Jesus. What happened?
 - a) But fear jumped on him at Jesus trial.
 - b) Things had taken a perilous turn. All those strange things Jesus had been saying about suffering and dying at the hands of the rulers – the things Peter had told Jesus should never happen to him (Mt 16:21-23) – looked like they were happening. Fear robbed his faith.
- E. But Jesus had prayed!
1. And a few week later, Peter found himself in front of the Sanhedrin – the same Sanhedrin that had terrified him the night of Jesus's trial.
 2. Now instead of denials, out of his mouth came these words: *"Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard"* (Acts 4:19-20).
 3. What in the world happened to Peter that suddenly made him so bold?
 4. Faith happened to Peter! His eyes were opened - He saw the resurrected Lord! He was filled with the Spirit...ushering in even more vision. He was a man with the Word, the Spirit and an experience. Faith happened to Peter. Fear had no hold on him.

Conclusion:

- Elisha prayed for his servants eyes to be open. Jesus prayed for Peter's faith.
- These formerly fearful men became **bold in faith** when they saw rightly.
- Are we fearful? Then, we are blind to what God is actually doing.
- But if by the Spirit we see what God is doing, we would be so filled with faith we would not stop talking about what we have seen and heard.
- "I see!" said the once fearful blind man, who now was filled with faith.