

More than Conquerors

This series is about encouragement. We all need encouragement in these days as we live our lives and serve the Lord. Each month a Bible event and a historical anecdote will be used to bring us a word of help, support and encouragement.

There's more with us than with them!! 2 Kings 6:11-19. We begin the new year with a Bible event from 2 Kings and an anecdote from Birmingham. For a number of years the king of Syria had tried to capture the prophet Elisha. Elisha always knew what the Syrians were planning and revealed their plans before they could be carried out. Finally the Syrian armies surrounded Elisha in Dothan. When Gehazi, Elisha's servant, woke up and saw the encircling Syrian armies, he was terrified. Elisha prayed, 'Lord, open his eyes.' When Gehazi looked again, he could hardly believe what he saw. All round them were horses and chariots of fire. The armies of heaven were protecting them! And Elisha encouraged him. 'Don't fear, there's more with us than with them!' Immediately the Syrians were struck with blindness and Elisha and Gehazi escaped.

Often we need to ask the Lord to open our eyes. When our strength has failed and faith is weak, we're apt to think that God has forgotten us. But he hasn't! He is near and only our dimness of vision prevents us from seeing his great presence and power and provision. Fear not! Trust God! Believe His word! There's more with us than with our enemy!

In the early 1950s a well-known department store in Birmingham, England, wanted to extend its premises. Close at hand was an ideal site but it belonged to the Quakers whose Meeting House had been there for well over two hundred years. The department store wrote to the Quakers, offering to buy the site. They said, 'We will give you a very good price for the land. In fact, we'll send you a blank cheque. Please fill in whatever sum of money you think appropriate and we will honour it.' Four weeks passed and there was no reply, then five weeks, then six weeks.

Finally a letter arrived from the Quakers. It thanked the department store for their generous offer but declined to accept it. 'Our Meeting House has been here for almost two hundred and fifty years,' they explained, 'much longer than your store. We have no wish to sell our property. However, if you would agree to sell your site to us, we are very interested in buying it. We will give you a very good price for it. Just state your selling price and we will honour it.' The letter was signed 'Cadburys.' The department store thought they were dealing with a small congregation of Quakers. Instead they were dealing with the Cadburys' empire. Cadburys could have bought the department store twenty times over!

When our enemy the devil attacks us, by ourselves we are weak and feeble. But when Christ dwells in us by his Spirit, we are mighty! The devil is no longer attacking us; he is attacking the Captain of our salvation – and the devil cannot win! There's more with us than with him! As we go through 2006, be encouraged. With Christ we are more than conquerors!

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