

The Prayer Class

Purpose: *To encourage greater participation and joy in prayer*

The Prayer Class meets in God's Throne Room 24/7

In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence Ephesians 3:12.

Teacher: Abe Funk

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Lesson: Open My Eyes

Welcome to The Prayer Class:

Lord Jesus, you opened physical and spiritual eyes. I want to see you with fresh eyes today, Amen!

Bible Reading: 2 Kings 6:15-23

When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked. "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And **Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see."** Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, "Strike these people with blindness." So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked. Elisha told them, "This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for." And he led them to Samaria. After they entered the city, Elisha said, "LORD, open the eyes of these men so they can see." Then the LORD opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria. When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, "Shall I kill them, my father? Shall I kill them?" "Do not kill them," he answered. "Would you kill men you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink and then go back to their master." So he prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel's territory.

Key Verse: And Elisha Prayed, *O LORD, open his eyes so he may see* 17.

Background and Lesson:

The human eye is an astounding organ. It measures about 1 inch across and only weighs approximately 0.25 ounces, but it provides you with millions of bits of information each second that help you navigate your daily life. Your eyes are specialized organs that take in visual information and relays it to the brain. In general, these organs are constructed of seven main parts: your cornea, iris, pupil, lens, retina, macula, and your optic nerve. Each part has a specific function, and together along with the six extraocular muscles attached to the white part of your eyes, (the sclera), they allow you to interpret your world. Our eyes are not only functional but also expressive, allowing us to connect with others through gaze and emotion. –Internet

Our Bible story begins when the king of Aram wanted to make war against Israel. Each place he planned to set up for the attack was reported to the king of Israel by Elisha the prophet. Frustrated he gathered his leaders and demanded who was who was divulging these secrets to the enemy. "None of

us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom." The king sent a large contingent of his army with horses and chariots to surround the city of Dothan where Elisha was staying.

When Elisha's helper saw the army surrounding them, he called out in fear to, "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

As Christians we have two sets of eyes, our physical eyes by which we see the world around us, and spiritual eyes by which we see and understand spiritual truths, also a gift of God. Both gifts are clearly illustrated in our Bible reading.

While I have always had good vision with my brown eyes, aging has changed them, so I wear glasses, I've had cataract implants, now with macular degeneration I get injections every three months. With each issue I am more thankful to God for the good vision I still have. Vision truly is a gift from God. While some creatures have more precision vision, like an eagle, human vision is still unique and a wonderful gift from our creative generous God. And of course, I'm also thankful for the specialists who look after my eyes to keep them healthy.

I also appreciate God's gift of spiritual vision he gave me when I invited Jesus into my life. I clearly remember how much more meaningful God and his Word became the day after my conversion. I understood the Bible I was reading and began to understand God's will and purpose for my life. Paul explains this 1 Cor. 1:18 like this, *the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.* Until God opens our spiritual eyes we cannot understand spiritual truths.

What hinders us from seeing with our spiritual eyes? Fear, as in our story, unbelief as when Jesus opened the eyes of his disciples after his resurrection, an unwillingness to do God's will, and of course sin that we have not confessed to God. Ask God to open your spiritual eyes to his Word, and to his will for you. *This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it - the LORD is his name: 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know'* Jeremiah 33:2-3.

Quote: *Does he who formed the eye not see?* Psalm 94:9

Think About This:

You may have 20/20 physical vision; but how is your spiritual vision? Ask the Great Physician to open your spiritual eyes to help you see what God says in his Word.

A Prayer for You:

Dear God, help us to *fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith* Hebrews 12:2.

My Notes and what To Pray for:

Add your prayer requests here: yourself, family, church family, missionaries, & leaders in government

Note: All Scriptures are from the NIV Bible unless otherwise indicated

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful Colossians 4:2

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