

# *Christian Seeking Identity*

*A Ministry of Alpha & Omega International Ministries*

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## ***Focus Your Eye Upon Jesus***

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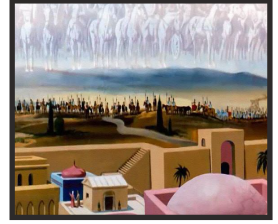
Can you believe that October is already here? And for us that live on the Eastern seaboard, the last few weeks have been challenging with Hurricane Ian coming through. We trust in the Lord that those of you who live in this area got through the storm safely. As I looked at pictures of the hurricane on the Internet and I saw the “eye” of the hurricane, I was reminded of how meteorologists describe the eye of the hurricane. In the center of the storm that everything revolves around, everything is perfectly calm. None of the effects of the surrounding storm are felt in the eye of the storm. As I started meditating on this, the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart that this is the way we need to see ourselves in times of trouble when trying circumstances buffet our lives. As Jesus said in Joh 14:27, Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Jesus promises us peace in the midst of our circumstances. I believe that we would agree that there are plenty of things going on in the world that could challenge the peace of Jesus if us having peace was contingent upon being free from trying circumstances.



It is in these times, in the midst of these circumstances that seem to surround us, that we are encouraged to keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. I am reminded of two incidences in the Bible where adhering to this principle played an important role in how the circumstances affected the lives of those involved.

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The first account is found in 2 Kings 6:8-17. Elisha and his servant Gehazi awoke up to find themselves surrounded by the Syrian army. It looked like certain death to Gehazi and he panicked. Elisha said, "Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them'. **And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.** When Gehazi's eyes were opened he was able to see the hand of the Lord at work in the midst of their circumstance and he was no longer afraid."



The second is found in Numbers 21:5-9. Here we find the people of Israel in the wilderness complaining and speaking against both God and Moses. As a result, God sent fiery serpents among the people, and many people of Israel died as a result of the bites that were inflicted by them. That's when the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." Moses prayed for the people and God instructed Moses to make a fiery serpent and set it upon a pole. Then God said anyone who looks at it after they have been bitten will live.



The pole represented the cross on which Jesus was to be crucified and the serpent represented Jesus' saving power. In one incident God caused eyes to see beyond what could be seen in the natural and in the other, God directed the eyes to look at their circumstance through the filter of the cross. As I meditated upon these two incidences, I was reminded by the Holy Spirit that our deliverance in trying times is linked to what we focus on. As long as we look to Jesus and hold fast to our faith in Him, He is faithful to reveal the victory that is already ours In Him.

Many times, the voice of our circumstance drowns out the voice of the Holy Spirit and we need someone to re-direct our thinking. That is why it is so important that we surround ourselves with people like Elisha who re-directed Gehazi's thinking. 2 Peter 1:12 says "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, **though ye know them**, and be established in the present truth. I depend a lot upon Suzan in these times to "put me in remembrance" of God's word and it helps me to be victorious in the midst of the circumstance at hand. I encourage you today to stay focused. Keep your "eyes" upon the Lord. 2 Chronicles 2:12 O our God.... we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes *are* upon thee.

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