

Defeating The Invisible Enemy: Overcoming Fear with Faith

WWT Board of Directors Devotion

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If someone told us, “Do not be afraid; you are not alone in this fight!” We would probably respond, “Yeah, right! Have you seen the news? We are completely surrounded by an invisible enemy! We are isolated, cut-off from each other, and very fearful about what to do!”

The coronavirus has been referred to as an invisible enemy. However, its effects are both visible and invisible. There are many people around the globe who need medical attention. Their symptoms are real, visible, and in some cases very critical. There are also many, many more people who are suffering from fear.

The power of this invisible enemy is tangible whether or not its effects are visible. The whole world has been impacted in unimaginable ways. Virtually all aspects of life have been put on hold. And for those who have lost loved ones, the virus has changed their lives forever. Many have compared this experience to being at war with an invisible enemy.

On the front lines of this war, brave first-responders and medical professionals are working to heal the sick. We pray for them all, and we know that their God-given experience and wisdom will help us defeat this enemy. We also recognize the dedicated WWT front-line workers who have rallied to ensure essential services are delivered to our customers. We celebrate them and thank God for this incredible team.

Beyond the visible battlefield, there lies a dimension where the spiritual supersedes the tangible. The weapons are not vaccines or social distancing. On this battlefield, the war that is waged is beyond our physical touch, yet it is within our hearts and minds. This is the battle of **faith versus fear**.

This is not the only time when we have faced fear. Practically speaking, illness, financial hardships, broken relationships, uncertainty, and anxiety are common to our human experience. However, this pandemic has dramatically escalated and amplified our fear. While this enemy is invisible, we feel it surrounding us!

In 2 Kings 6:8-23, we learn of a similar instance in which there was a feeling of being surrounded. The fear was palpable, as it is now. The prophet Elisha had been advising the king of Israel in a war against a neighboring country. Many times, Elisha’s God-given advice had saved Israel. As a result, their enemy sent a great army with horses and chariots to seize him. Overnight this vast army surrounded the city where Elisha was staying.

The next morning, Elisha’s assistant rose early and went outside. When he saw the enemy had surrounded them with horses and chariots, he was terrified. “What should we do?” he called out to Elisha for help. Elisha replied, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.” So, the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw that the mountain was full of the Lord’s army, including horses and chariots of fire. This awe-inspiring force had surrounded their enemy. The threat Elisha faced was great, but God’s power was greater. Elisha and his assistant were saved by God’s invisible army.

Throughout the Bible we are reminded that faith in God’s power and presence is not based on what we can see or touch. “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1). As we face this invisible enemy of fear, may we be strengthened by the hope that we are not alone. Not only are we in this together, but there is a higher power at work on our behalf in ways we don’t always have eyes to see. Remember in the days ahead: Do not be afraid; you are not alone in this fight!