

Worldview

What we see affects our behaviour

→ Person Swap Prank

The way we view the world determines our actions

And what we believe

Elisha's Worldview

^ 2 Kings 6:8-22

Story of Elisha: 4 Worldview Shattering examples

1. Elisha knows King of Aram Plans

We are not told how he knows
But as God's prophet he hears from God
But this is not possible according to a non-faith worldview

2. God's army is invisible

Dothan is surrounded by the armies of Aram
Elisha's servant could not see the armies of God.
w horses and chariots of fire
Elisha asked God to open the servants eyes so he could see

3. God blinds the army

As opposed to the servant Elisha then asks God to blind the army of Aram even further - so that they cannot see anything
And he leads the Army to where Elisha is supposed to be
From Dothan to Samaria
11 miles distance

4. Aram's army receives hospitality

Not death but a feast
Restoration not destruction
This is a cultural worldview change
Mercy not punishment

God's worldview

We see the world with our own eyes

and only register what we need/want to see
Like the person swap prank
But what if we could see the world today with God's eyes

Would we be able to hear from God?

Yes - we would. Friday night listening prayer

Would we be able to see God's army?

This church building - are we the only ones here?
Or are angels (the army of God) worshipping with us?
Or even protecting us?
Do we dare to pray to see the world with God's eyes?

Mercy not punishment?

God: Mercy first?
Punishment is needed
Is that our reaction too?
Me: Punishment first and mercy later
Like the King of Israel
And God needs to remind me of his mercy

John's worldview

^ 1 John 4:1-6

There are not only good spiritual forces, there are also bad ones

Do not believe every spirit

But test the spirits to see if they are from God

John responds to "Jesus is not from God"

This is not teaching from the Spirit of God

Jesus has come in the flesh

as a human being

If this is not true

his execution is not meaningful for our salvation

But it is true

And God died on the cross for us
as Jesus is form God in human body

Spirits not of God want to negate the meaning of the cross

John warns against the spirit of the antichrist

Those spiritual forces that deny that Jesus is the Son of God, died for forgiveness of sins and setting us free from slavery.

Because it is these spiritual forces that we were slave to

Addictions
Ambitions
Selfishness
Immorality
Anger, Hate, etc.

They hate the Spirit of God

as God opposes them

How can we discern?

John:

We are from God - and have already overcome them

we are not slaves anymore
God in us is greater than the antichrist - the one who is in the world

The world listens to the antichrist(s)

As it says what the world wants to hear
and from its worldview
Today's Worldview
you can do what you like as long as you do not hurt each other
you can believe what you like, as long as you do not try to influence or change me
I am the sole expert and authority in my life
I don't need to justify my behaviour
I don't need to be saved
I will go to heaven regardless of my behaviour
Lies that the antichrist successfully is proclaiming

We need to listen to those who are from God

^ Those who say

Need to love God above all and each other as ourselves
Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life
Jesus Christ is the authority in my life
I am accountable to him and he will judge me
Through Jesus Christ's Cross I am saved - and I need him in order to live my life as he wants me to
Only by his grace and mercy will I be forgiven and am I accepted in heaven

Protect ourselves

We need to be aware of all Spiritual forces

Those from God and those from the Devil

Just because we cannot see God's army does not mean it is not there

And just because we cannot see the Devil's army does not mean it is not there either

There is a Spiritual Battle going on

And some of us may be called to participate in it
But all of us need to protect ourselves

We need to discern what is from God and what is not

Discernment tests

Better together!

Listening to God together

We need to protect ourselves

Spiritual Armour

^ Eph 6:13-17

Helmet of Salvation
Firm knowledge that we are saved and nothing can harm us
Does not mean that our earthly body will not receive harm
But that God will restore us in heaven

Breastplate of Righteousness
Not that we are right with God because of what we did
But what Jesus has done on the cross for us
And that he has forgiven us and that he forgives us
But we need to keep "short accounts"
Ensure that this breastplate fits well

Belt of Truth
Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life
He is the Son of God
He is our brother and our Saviour

Shoes with the readiness to proclaim the Gospel of peace
In the fight peace will win
Are we ready to fight evil with peace
By proclaiming Jesus whenever we are called to do so?
And faith for justice and mercy in our area of influence?

Shield of faith
Our faith in Jesus Christ protects us from the barbs of the evil one:

"you are not worthy"
"you are guilty and should be ashamed of yourself"
"you are not one of Jesus"

Truths:
You are worthy
You are forgiven and do need to be ashamed
Jesus loves you and you are one with him

Sword of the Spirit
The word of God as we read in the Bible
And interpret through the knowledge and wisdom of the Spirit

We do not need to be afraid

Jesus has died, he has risen and he will come again - Communion

Nothing will separate us from the love of God

Paul: For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

^ Rom 8:38