

LOOKING BEYOND OURSELVES

Note, I wrote and shared this article with a Christian group that I actively associate with. Maybe you'll find some encouraging words herein.

Dear Sisters and Brothers, in Christ,

I have a question for you. "Have you ever thought or have you verbalized that because we're small in number that God can't use us or that He's forgotten about us?" It's easy to think or state this if you or I are operating in the natural, but let's not forget that we serve a supernatural God whose living Son dwells within us.

Time and time again, we find in the Word that God will use whatever resources are available in His "hands," to do His miraculous work through people for His Glory. Several of these are as follows:

- Recall in 2 Kings 6:15 where Elisha's servant saw (in the natural) that they were small in number compared to the troops, horses and chariots everywhere around him. What happened, Elisha prayed to God that his servant's Spiritual eyes would be opened. When they were, the servant found that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire ... But God ...
- Recall God trimmed Gideon's army from 32,000 men to 300. In the natural, we would think there is no way 300 men can conquer the Midianites ... But God ...
- In the natural, we would think 5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish is way too small to feed 5,000 But Jesus ...
- In the natural, we would think 7 loaves of bread and a few small fish is too small to feed 7,000 ... But Jesus
- I could go on with testimonies in my own life. You have them too.

Why does God function this way? Because He does not want man or woman to think it's his or her own strength or knowledge accomplishing this or that task (Scripture tells us this). God wants us totally dependent on Him so we don't forget who the great shepherd is and who the sheep of His pasture is. He deserves all the credit for success. It's only about us in that we are obedient to the task(s) He has set before us. Outside of this, it's not about you or me at all, but about Him.

If you are looking inwardly, with natural eyes, and wonder what's going on here, then I challenge you to first, look up and remember whose (God's, in Christ) you are, and then look outward. Scripture reads, "... *wake up and look around*. The fields are already ripe for harvest" (Jn. 4:35, NLT).

Let's remain faithful in our service and ministry and watch what our Lord does when ALL we have is something that we consider is small in our eyes, but it is ALL that we have to give.

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think" (Eph. 3:20, NLT).

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