

Preparing a Lantern for Dark Times

"As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. ¹²Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more..." 72 Kings 2:11-12 (NIV)

"For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him" Phil 1:29 (NIV)

Why me?

1. You **messed up!**

2. Life **happens.**

"... for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." Matthew 5:45 (NKJV)

3. **Spiritual warfare.**

"So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places. ¹¹This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Will you not tell me which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?" ¹²"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." ¹³"Go, find out where he is," the king ordered, "so I can send men and capture him." The report came back: "He is in Dothan." ¹⁴Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city. ¹⁵When 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. ¹⁶"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷And 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. ¹⁸As 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." 2 Kings 6:10-18 (NIV)

The state of your lantern:

- **In need of a re-charge**
- **Needs to be dusted off, cleaned up, and possibly repaired**
- **Not sure where it is!**

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, ³though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Selah ⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. ⁵God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. ⁶Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. ⁷The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah ⁸Come and see the works of the LORD, the desolations he has brought on the earth. ⁹He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire. ¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." ¹¹The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." Psalm 46 (NIV)

The God that moves at the speed of light is willing to pause and step into every moment and every space of your life. Don't you think that if he is willing to pause and wait for us then we should be willing to "be still, and know that He is God?"