

## How shall we do?

I suppose every generation thinks their generation is facing the most difficult and trying times. I remember my parents talking about how things had changed during their life time. Really I thought they were just old fogies stuck in the mud of the past. Now I am the old foggy longing for those days that I believe were better days. What were those days? The days when the family was a strong unit and functioning as the center of life, and there was a mom and dad in authority no matter how that authority was challenged. The days when there were no credit cards which invited people to spend their future on unnecessary luxuries for the present. The church was attended by families and was interested in the salvation of soles, not in what other churches may or may not be doing. The government at least pretended to have some concern for its citizens. Sadly those days have vanished away and fundamental Christian views have become the object of ridicule and distain. This brings us to the question, HOW SHALL WE DO? The question is asked at least five times in scripture and the answer has never been more needed in our day. Shall we consider two of the occurrences?

(2Kings 6:15) “And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! How shall we do?”

(Jeremiah 12:5) “If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and *if* in the land of peace, *wherein* thou trustedst, *they wearied thee*, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?”

We well know the story of 2 Kings six. Elisha is being sought by the King of Syria because he is informing the King of Israel of his battle strategy. If I could use this as an example of the way the true church is being perused in our day by the hounds of hell. It may be identified in many ways, modernism, ecumenicalism, compromise, health, wealth and happiness gospel and a host of other “isms”. Whatever you call it the question remains “how shall we do?”

Second Kings 6:16 informs us that we must come to a **realization**, which leads to a calm **reliance** on the **plan** and **power** of God. We find another young man at Dothan, his experience was not chariots of fire but a pit however he had the same attitude ad Elisha it was God brought me here and He will keep me where he brings me. That young man’s name was Joseph, (Genesis 37) he also found God’s **plan** perfect, God’s **power** sufficient and **realized** his only course of action should be **reliance** on his God.

The new Testament injunction for the Church today is; (Eph 6:13-14) “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;”

A friend said to me; “Ed I would rather be swallowed by a whale than nibbled to death by minnows.” I think that is the answer to Jeremiah’s questions. If we permit the minnows to sap our strength, what shall we do with the whales?

Adam Clarke puts it this way; “If thou hast run with the footmen - If the smallest evils to which thou art exposed cause thee to make so many bitter complaints, how wilt thou feel when, in the course of thy prophetic ministry, thou shalt be exposed to much greater, from enemies much more powerful? Footmen may here be the symbol of common evil events; horsemen, of evils much more terrible. **If thou have sunk under small difficulties, what wilt thou do when great ones come?**” What a soul searching question!

The apostle Paul instructs us twice in the New Testament about weariness, (Galatians 6:9) And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. (2Thessaloians 3:13) But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

## How shall we do?

God’s plan is perfect follow it!

God’s power is sufficient trust it!

Realize God’s way is our only course of action

Confidently rely on God's ability to see us through every circumstance.

(Isaiah 43:2) "When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."