

A Message from Pastor Travis Dean

We recently moved from our apartment into a nice ranch house. We had just moved in and were sitting at the dining room table when Elijah said, "I want to turn the black thing." I turned around, looked through the large window, but didn't see anything black that could be turned. I thought he might be talking about the white lamp post in the front yard which had a handle attached to it. I reasoned that maybe he was getting his colors mixed up.

For days afterward Elijah kept asking to turn the "black thing". Finally, one day after parking in the driveway and getting out of the car, I told him, "Ok. Go ahead and turn the black thing." I was surprised when he started walking purposefully towards the road. (I made sure no cars were coming.) He walked across the street and into the yard of the house directly across from ours. He then went over to the side of the house and looked up at this chimney cap, which, sure enough, was black and did, indeed, turn when the wind blew.

Elijah could see what I couldn't. And so I thought he was mistaken about this "black thing". This reminds me of a story in the Bible. It is in 2 Kings chapter 6. Elisha and his servant were surrounded by the Syrian army. The servant was terrified and was astonished when Elisha told him, "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." The servant probably thought the same thing about Elisha as I did about my son, Elijah. "*Surely, he's confused.*" Elisha saw what his servant couldn't – horses and chariots of fire all around them, sent from heaven to protect them.

Being a Christian may seem strange to those who can't see what we can. Like Moses, we endure opposition "as seeing Him who is invisible" (Hebrews 11:27). We choose a life that is based on what can only be seen by faith. We remain confident in a future resurrection because "we walk by faith not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Let us be like my son, Elijah. Let us remain confident and unwavering in our desire. Elijah wanted (and still does) to turn the "black thing". We long to see Jesus face to face, where we can reach out and touch Him. Elijah may never be able to turn the "black thing". But one day God will say to us, "Ok. Go ahead and touch with your own hands your Savior and Lord."