

Living in the Light

Naaman: Free but Costly Pt. 1

2 Kings 5:1-15

Grace Fellowship Church / Stephen Petrie / July 26, 2026

I. You are not outside God's reach- not too high or too low.

Pride shows itself in two polar opposite ways that both stem from the same root: an out-of-proportion focus on ourselves.

2 Kings 5:1 “Naaman, the commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper.”

You are not so high that you have no need for God's grace and you are not so low that God can not extend His grace to you.

We have all been born into sin, totally unworthy of the grace of God, which means that any work that makes us right with God must be a work of God Himself.

II. Your biggest problem will kill you from the inside out and you can't fix it.

Naaman is worried about his leprosy, but God is going to use his leprosy to reveal a far greater problem inside of him.

The pursuit and desire for sin is like the desire to itch poison ivy, it will provide short term relief at the expense of multiplied pain.

The Spirit often uses the external realities, frustrations, and limitations of this life to remind us that we are not self-sufficient and need healing from one outside of us.

2 Kings 5:2-3 “Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, ‘Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.’”

The healing Naaman needed could only come from God.

III. Your connections, money, religious activity, and works can never earn or pay for God's favor.

2 Kings 5:5-6 "...So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. ⁶ And he brought the letter to the king of Israel..."

The God of Israel cannot be purchased or bribed.

2 Kings 5:9-11 "So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.' ¹¹ But Naaman was angry and went away..."

Naaman did not just want to be healed. He wanted to deserve and earn his healing.

When we believe that we deserve God's grace, a free gift is an insult.

Naaman was willing to walk away from the favor of God rather than be humbled by it.

2 Kings 5:11-12 "But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, 'Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?' So he turned and went away in a rage."

We say we want God to change us, but often what we really want is for Him to exalt us.

We do not get a role in delivering ourselves.

Psalms 50:12-15 "If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are Mine. ¹³ Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats? ¹⁴ Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, ¹⁵ and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

2 Kings 5:13 (NIV) “My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, ‘Wash and be cleansed’!”

A free gift was too costly.

Self righteousness will make you bitter or arrogant.

Seeking to earn your own salvation will wear you out.

IV. Your salvation is offered to you for free but it will cost you your control.

2 Kings 5:14 “So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.”

The great commander has, by faith, been made like the little girl.

2 Kings 5:15 “Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, ‘Behold I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel.’”

Have you given up control, or are you still seeking to rule over your life?

If you are in Christ, then the good news is that by His free grace you have been justified.

We are left with the choice to either humble ourselves or go away angry.