

Don't Stop at 6

2 Kings 5:1-7

...Naaman was a mighty warrior, he suffered from leprosy. So Naaman started out, carrying as gifts 750 pounds of silver, 150 pounds of gold, and ten sets of clothing. The letter to the king of Israel said: "with a letter I present my servant Naaman. I want you to heal him of his leprosy." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes in dismay and said, "Am I God, that I can give life and take it away? Why is this man asking me to heal someone with leprosy? I can see that he's just trying to pick a fight with me."

1. Men will let you down

Psalms 118:8

"It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in humans."

2 Kings 5:8

But when Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes in dismay, he sent this message to him: "Why are you so upset? Send Naaman to me, and he will learn that there is a true prophet here in Israel."

2. God uses everything, even hurt and disappointments

Hebrews 1:1-2

"Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe."

Romans 8:28

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."

2 Kings 5:9-11

So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and waited at the door of Elisha's house. But Elisha sent a messenger out to him with this message: "Go and wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River. Then your skin will be restored, and you will be healed of your leprosy." But Naaman became angry and stalked away. "I thought he would certainly come out to meet me!" he said. "I expected him to wave his hand over the leprosy and call on the name of the Lord his God and heal me!"

3. God rarely shows up the way we expect

Isaiah 55:8-9

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.”

2 Kings 5:12-13

...Naaman turned and went away in a rage. But his officers tried to reason with him and said, “Sir, if the prophet had told you to do something very difficult, wouldn’t you have done it? So you should certainly obey him when he says simply, ‘Go and wash and be cured!’”

4. Surround yourself with people who push you toward God's will

Proverbs 27:17

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

2 Kings 5:14

So Naaman went down to the Jordan River and dipped himself seven times, as the man of God had instructed him. And his skin became as healthy as the skin of a young child, and he was healed!

5. Breakthrough sometimes requires persistence

2 Kings 5:17

Then Naaman said, “From now on I will never again offer burnt offerings or sacrifices to any other god except the Lord.

6. Follow the Healer not just the healing

John 6:66-68

“At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, “Are you also going to leave?” Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life.”