

**"ALL" HE HAD MADE**

[***Genesis 1:31***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1:31&version=NIV)

***God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.***

In Genesis, God tells us how the earth was created, including animals, fish, land and sea, night and day. On this sixth day, He would also create man and woman. God saw all that He had made, and it was good. It was good! Do you know you are good? Do you know that He created you to be good? To do good? To live good? But what does that mean?

Webster's Dictionary defines "good" as: to be desired or approved of; having the qualities for a particular role, morally right; righteousness.

1. To be desired or approved of: our goodness comes from our Lord and Savior through our relationship with Him; we are good because He is good. We are desired because He desires to have a relationship with us, He pursues us.

2. Having the qualities for a particular role: God made us good, so that means your identity is in Him, not your stuff, your achievements, your possessions, or what others say about you. God created you for a particular role, to have a relationship that glorifies Him and out of that relationship--a relationship with others.

3. Morally right: Good is the opposite of bad. God created us to be good, to choose what is right based on His word. To live a life in truth and honesty with integrity. To make choices that bring glory to God and create fruit. To make choices that build others up versus tearing them down.

4. Righteousness: God is a righteous God, and being good in Him is righteousness. Being righteous is not having your own way, being prideful, or holding your "Christianity" over someone, but instead, in love, it is directing others towards Christ, sharing the truth of who Jesus is, His life, and our lives should be as a result. The only way to God is through Jesus--the right way and the right life!

So, God said He made it ALL, and it was all good. How does this change things for you today? What is God telling you right now?

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**"ALL" THE WORK**

**Genesis 2:3**

**Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy because, on that day, He rested from all the work of creating that He had done.**

In Genesis, after God had created everything, including man and woman, He would choose to rest. Why would God need to rest? He's God!

Webster's Dictionary defines "rest" as:*to cease work or movement in order to relax, refresh oneself, or recover strength.*

1. God rested to show us that we need time set apart to rest, renew, and refresh. Resting is required to be ready for what God wants us to do in this life. Unlike God, our bodies have limits. If we don't stop, slow down, rest, sleep, etc., what we can accomplish in this world is limited.

2. God rested to show us the need to spend specific time with Him, away from the various distractions of life. Yes, we should spend time with God each day, praying without ceasing, in fellowship with Him, but in this verse, God is reminding us that He made this day--this seventh day--holy. Unlike the other six days, it is special and set apart for divine fellowship with the Creator. Set apart so that we are reminded of how much He wants to spend time with us—a whole day!

When we spend time with God, we get His direction; we grow stronger in our walk and relationship with Him; we get to reflect on all that He has done and is doing; we get to tell Him our fears, concerns, and needs. We also get to hear what He wants from us.  We get His peace to keep doing what we are doing.

3. God blessed the seventh day. God blesses it to show how much He values this downtime, this day of focus, this day where we will be nourished and grow fruit.

What distractions, what work do you need to take a break from so that you can rest, truly rest?

How does this change things for you today? What is God telling you right now?

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 **"ALL" THE PEOPLE**

***Genesis 6:12-13***

***God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth."***

In Genesis, God saw how horribly things had gone wrong among the people. The story behind these verses is the story of Cain and Abel and how Cain killed his brother. This sin of jealousy, murder, and betrayal to his parents, Adam and Eve, would just be the start of the curse passed down through several generations.

God would give Adam and Eve another son, Seth, and out of Seth's lineage would come to Noah, a righteous man who served the Lord. God would tell Noah that He was going to put an end to ALL people and the people and the earth due to the violence of that time!

1. How could God create earth--a people--that would be so corrupt? Well, because He gave man and woman free will. God will not force us to be good. He will not force us to spend time with Him, to have fellowship with or believe in Him. Would you want to force someone to be your friend, to date you, to marry you? This illustration shows that without fellowship with the Lord-- on our own--we can quickly become wicked!

2. God would destroy not only the people but also the earth. Wow, why did the planet also need to suffer? What was God doing by destroying it? Perhaps a new start, a freshness, a renewal? Perhaps a death in one way brings life in another—Christ. Yes, our death of the flesh, our old ways, and renewal in Christ is what had to be done.  For Noah, it just wasn't the body's death, but it was the death of the old nature, the old way of life, the old way of doing things. God started over. He does this with us too.

3. Even though God was disgusted with man and what he had done, He still had compassion for those who were following Him. He saved Noah and his family. Noah trusted God enough to build the massive ark--the ark that not only saved his family but also two of every kind of creature!

Is there a sin in your life that is keeping you from God? From a relationship with Him? Is there a sin that is taking you down the path of Cain? Turn from your sin right now, ask God for forgiveness, to be filled with His Spirit, and to move forward. You never know what He might be asking you to build!

How does this change things for you today? What is God telling you right now?

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**"ALL" THE BABBLE**

*Genesis 11:1-8*

*Now the whole world had one language and a common speech.****2****As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.* *They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone and tar for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens,so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."* *But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.**Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."* *So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.****9****That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.*

Now the whole world was speaking one language. They were growing together as a team, and of course, that would be a good thing--however, this community began to wander from their relationship with God. They began to work together to build something for themselves, to glorify their effort versus God. So often we do the same!

1. Isn't a team a good thing? Isn't it good that we all speak the same language? It would really help in reaching people for Jesus. It would really help when trying to market, communicate, connect with others. Yes, it would be; however, in this case, it worked against the ultimate goal of coming together for the Lord. Coming together to bring glory to Him. Often, we see groups formed around us in our community, school, and online. While some of these groups appear harmless, i.e., Flower Growers of America, others like the KKK can be detrimental not only to people but also to God's kingdom. This is an example of coming together for the community but with the wrong focus!

2. God saw what was happening, that they wanted to build a monument to signify themselves, their effort, and their power. We do this today--we see names on everything from monuments and statues, buildings and roads to fancy grave markers, speeches, and causes. While it appears excellent to name something after someone who did something extraordinary in history, such as freeing slaves, curing a disease, or helping hide people during the Holocaust, we must never forget who allowed this to happen, our Lord and Savior! These people forgot, and as a result, they wanted to build something that focused on what they did without God's help.

3. The tower is called the "Tower of Babel," which is funny because today, this is where we get the word "babble," which means to ramble on in the conversation that has little meaning. Their tower represented man's attempts at a defining it but instead it became meaningless. How often today do we get caught up in gossip, in a talk that is of no value, or conversation that isn't salty—seasoned with God's word and purpose?! What kinds of babble are you involved in?

4. God saw what they were doing and out of protection for them—although I am sure they didn't see it that way—He confused their language so they would: 1) stop building the tower and 2) split from their big group; forming smaller groups resulting in less power. Less power that was focused on themselves. He would then scatter them all over the earth. Sometimes we do need to break groups apart, especially when we see where things are heading. Sometimes we even need to pull friends and family apart to allow time for them to refocus their relationships on God versus themselves. Does this mean every group that God pulls apart can never work or see each other again? No! It just means God has a purpose on this earth, and when we start to make it about ourselves, He will intervene and get us back on track (for those who follow Him). He does this because He loves us!

So, where are you in your relationship with God? What about the groups you belong to? Relationships? Are you Christ-centered? Does your speech, your talk edify God? Are you working to build His kingdom or your Tower of Babel? How does this change things for you today? What is God telling you right now?



**"ALL" WILL BE BLESSED**

***Genesis 12:1-3***

***The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."***

I love Abraham. A man who took such a risk to leave all that he knew, trusting God to step out, travel to a new place, new environment, new everything. I can only imagine his fears, his concerns, and even his doubts. Like each of us, change is hard, especially when it requires fully trusting in the Lord.

1. The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's house to the land I will show you." God gave Abraham a direct order. No "stop, look and listen"—just go. He told him to leave his country, his home, and all that was familiar. What if God asked you to leave your home and travel across the country or the ocean? Journey to a place where the terrain might be different or very cold with lots of snow or very hot and humid. Would you want to go? Would you be willing to trust God, not knowing where He might take you or has planned for you? Would you be able to leave what is comfortable and easy to something different?

2. God also told Abraham to leave all his people (family, friends, those he worked with, etc.). While there is a point in time we do need to leave our family—especially if we are grown---this was not that kind of situation. Abraham was asked to leave all those people he had relationships with and go where God told him to go.  There was no email, facetime, and texting to stay in touch with them. How very hard this had to be. Could you do this today? If God said to leave and not look back— not even to correspond with family and friends, could you do this? For some of us, the mission field is just that—limited family correspondence. However, the blessings far outweigh the sacrifices.

3. "I will show you," says God. God does not just take you someplace without giving you a  type of peace about what He is doing. The issue is we want to know all the details and then trust God. Just the fact that God is directing you should be enough to trust Him. Trust is the first step in God "showing you."

4. "I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing." Can you imagine how Abraham was feeling now--"Okay, so You are asking me to leave all that I know and to trust You? Now You are telling me what is going to happen?!" God wants to use you, just like Abraham, to do great things to bring glory to God. By being obedient to where you are now, God wants to bless all of us. For some, He will show favor by their fame or finance, for others, by their compassion and patience. But all is for HIS kingdom to bring HIM glory. Are you ready for God to use you in mighty ways?

5. "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you, I will curse." God is our provision and our protector. As you continue to follow Him, listening, obeying, acting, He will bless you beyond measure, as well as protect you. He will take care of your enemies. Provide judgment and resolution, HE will do this--not you!

6. "And ALL the peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Hmmm, how is God going to do that? I mean, we are just simple people living a simple life? Abraham does this first by just saying to God, "yes, I will follow you (whatever this might be)." The more we say "yes" to His direction, His calling, His work, the more people are impacted and blessed as well. As we teach, disciple, and empower others, the more they learn, and the process is multiplied, but it must all start with us saying "yes" to God!

So, where are you in your relationship with God? Are you genuinely trusting Him for everything in your life, including a new direction? A new place to live, work, or place of ministry? Maybe a new relationship or leaving some old ones behind. Pray right now that God shows you what needs to change to trust Him in ALL ways truly.

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# **"ALL" THE NATIONS**

# ***Genesis 22:15-18***

***15The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time 16and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,18and through your offspring,all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."***

We continue to learn more about Abraham, including a critical test of his trust in the Lord: Abraham would be asked to sacrifice his only son- the love of his life- in the act of obedience and surrender to the Lord.

1. Abraham was obedient. The angel of the Lord appeared a second time to Abraham, with a message from God, a message declaring Abraham's obedience to God. I don't know about you, but I am not sure I could have done what he did, but let's make it even more straightforward as a point for consideration: what if God asked you to refrain from using your phone for anything other than making calls? What if He asked you to stop using social media or watching TV/videos? What if He asked you to stop spending time here or there or money on this or that? Anything more important than God becomes our god.

2. God would bless Abraham with millions of descendants. This seemed impossible considering he had only this one son. Often, we do the same to the Lord-He wants to bless us beyond measure, but we must first be willing to lay our lives, stuff, checkbook, time, and loved ones down before Him. What does "beyond measure" mean to you and me? Who knows what one good deed of sowing financially or investing time in a ministry could do? Who knows what a kind word could do or opening up your home to someone who has no home or, better yet, letting go of past hurt and anger??!!  Anything that keeps us from being obedient blocks God from blessing us beyond measure!

3. God would give Abraham the possessions of his enemies. God has the power to provide us with anything, new or used. He can give you things that have been taken away due to a broken marriage, a broken family, and loss of a job, home, etc. He can restore all those things that were taken plus give you more. But again, these blessings come with obedience.

4. Others would be blessed through Abraham's actions. I love that when we are truly trusting the Lord, it impacts others. First, it affects those in our lives, from friends and family to neighbors and workmates. As they see us change, they will be changed. Then, because they have relationships with others, this transformation expands, and more people will continue to be changed! This is how the Great Commission got started. As we accept Christ's gift of Salvation and begin to grow in Him, others see this and desire this for themselves. We are then given opportunities to witness what we do and what we say. This results in others getting saved, and repercussions continue like ripples in a pond. Through Abraham's example, even those reading this scripture learn what it takes for God to pour out His blessings!

So, what thing or person or relationship is God asking you to lay at His feet...to truly sacrifice...to show that you love Him more? In what ways does God want to bless you? Pray right now that God shows you what you need to submit to Him so that you can be a part of His blessing to ALL the nations!

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# **"ALL" YOU HAVE**

# ***Genesis 24:1-9***

***Abraham was now very old, and the Lord had blessed him in every way. 2He said to the senior servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh. 3I want you to swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living, 4but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac." 5The servant asked him, "What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the country you came from?"***

***6"Make sure that you do not take my son back there," Abraham said. 7"The Lord, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land’—he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there. 8If the woman is unwilling to come back with you, then you will be released from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there." 9So the servant put his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and swore an oath to him concerning this matter.***

Abraham is now getting old, and his wife Sarah has passed away. He must find a wife for his son, Isaac. Abraham had a plan, led by God, on where to look.

1. Abraham trusted his possessions: Abraham was a wealthy man who God had blessed for his obedience. Abraham had many servants, but one, in particular, he trusts with all his possessions. Today, you might give your accountant, agent, manager, spouse, parent/child the same role. What kind of trust would it take to let someone be in charge of all your things? This trust can only come from God and be extended to others. Abraham also knew they were just things, and God owns them all.

2. Abraham trusts his servant with the choice of the wife for his son. What kind of relationship would you need to have to trust someone in this manner. We learn from the scripture that Abraham gave him specific instructions about where to go (not his existing home), what to say, and then to wait on her response.

Today we might meet someone who you would think would be an excellent match for your child, your widowed or divorced parent, or your friend. And because of your relationship with them, they trust your insight in knowing what is best for you. It's a reminder that we need people in our lives who we can trust. People that know you well enough know what is best for you.

3. Abraham instructs his servant of where to find a wife for his son. He knew where God had placed him to live currently did not have the right kind of woman for his son to marry. Abraham knew the importance of being equally yoked. Of marrying someone who believes in the same God and today, the same Savior of Jesus Christ and the direction, you are going. It wasn't enough that she was a believer, but she was also from the same extended family of believers. But one thing that is critical here is Rebecca; his wife has also had a say in the matter. She had also to agree to be equally yoked. Marriage isn't about just one person's desire (or parent or friend). Abraham desired his servant to find this woman for his son and gave the servant a way out if Rebecca disagreed. If God has someone for you, he will prepare them to be your mate. You can't manipulate or control your way into having someone marry you.

4. The servant followed through with his commitment to Abraham. Commitment is something we don't see as much today as in the old days. Today people wait till the last minute to let you know they are coming to your home for dinner. They wait until the last minute to show up for a Church service or event. They say they are coming to something and then never show up. They agree to serve at Church or function but then give you excuses for why they can't do this.  This servant was committed to Abraham because he was committed to God. The next time you are invited to dinner, ask to serve, ask to be someone's friend, remember when you commit, you are committing to God. If you aren't able to keep your commitments to God, how do you do it for a person? Hmm, that might just change things.

What about you? Does the thought of being accountable to someone scare you? Are you willing to trust others in using things you own, such as your car, home, stuff, and/or love life? Are you willing to trust others in the help of finding a spouse? Do people know you well enough to help in this pursuit? Are you willing to also hear God say no to someone or something? Are you willing to commit to things—including a relationship?

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# **"ALL" MANKIND WILL FEAR**

# ***Psalm 64:1-10***

***Hear me, my God, as I voice my complaint; protect my life from the threat of the enemy. 2Hide me from the conspiracy of the wicked, from the plots of evildoers. 3They sharpen their tongues like swords and aim cruel words like deadly arrows. 4They shoot from ambush at the innocent; they shoot suddenly, without fear. 5They encourage each other in evil plans, they talk about hiding their snares; they say, "Who will see it?" 6They plot injustice and say, "We have devised a perfect plan!" Surely the human mind and heart are cunning.7But God will shoot them with his arrows;  they will suddenly be struck down. 8He will turn their own tongues against them and bring them to ruin; all who see them will shake their heads in scorn. 9All people will fear; they will proclaim the works of God and ponder what he has done. 10The righteous will rejoice in the Lord and take refuge in him; all the upright in heart will glory in him!***

Our author is David. David, a man after God's own heart, would find himself under attack. God had plans for David to be a great King. And the enemy's goal was to destroy him. Here is one Psalm where David not only is speaking to God but reminds us of the power of God in those times of trouble, stress, and fear.

1. David knows the one that can help him is God. David has a relationship with God. Often we treat God as Santa Clause when we want something. Or, we only cry out when we are in trouble. But God wants us to have an on-going relationship where we spend time with him every day. Where we are in prayer, reading his word, and having fellowship. A relationship where we hear the direction God wants us to go. A relationship where we can ask for things, including help when we are in trouble, help to stay out of trouble, and even protection. A relationship where we also ask God want he wants from us?

God is such a wonderful God that he gives us what we need and what we want. God reminds us too that this relationship has eternal results in our salvation and ALL of our relationships. As we grow closer to God, it results in serving God by reaching others for God too. What does your relationship with God look like today?

2.  David knows that God protects in many different ways. Sometimes he tells us to run, hide and get away from the things that could destroy us—from relationships to overspending to even food. And sometimes to tells us to stand strong against the wicked, the evildoers and fight for Jesus. Whether it's in standing for injustice, protecting the innocent, speaking on someone's behalf, or setting a boundary in your convictions, God is there.

3.  David is also aware that the enemy attacks with weapons, things that harm us physically and with words. Look at the media today. Look at all the lies that spread. Words definitely can hurt more than sticks and stones. Today more than ever, we are seeing Christianity attacked. More than ever, morality means nothing. People are living a life of self-indulgence. It's a "me" world.  So, are you helping to fight against this with your prayers, growing in your relationship with God to get stronger to fight the enemy? How are you using social media and other ways of communication to fight the enemy? What is coming out of your mouth to build the body of Christ up, or are you helping to destroy it with gossip, anger, and accusations?

4. David reminds us that in the end, Jesus wins. Whatever the enemy is using to destroy us will be, in turn, used to destroy him. This gives me so much peace. To know that the work I am doing for the Lord now, the prayers, the crying out to God will, in the end, win victory over the enemy. The workers are few, and yes, the harvest is plenty. I choose to continue to be that worker, in the knowledge that God will win over the devil and his schemes in my lifetime or after.

5. In the end, ALL people will fear because they will see the truth, the works of God. They will look upon their own lives and realize they were wrong and that God was right? That Christians were right. Will there be time for them to get saved? If you are reading this, there is time to turn your life over to God, to Jesus, and ask Him into your heart, knowing you are a sinner and need Jesus as your Savior to save you. That Jesus died on the cross for you, for your sins. And through believing in him, you will have everlasting life. And you will be able to rejoice in the Lord, take refuge in him and his glory. Don't allow another minute to go by without making this decision. Don't be a part of the ones who die and go before the Lord only to have the Lord say he did not know them.

What about those who already believe? Are you living a life that shows this? Do you get we are ALL in a battle against the schemes of the enemy? That when he attacks in one area and finds no victory, he goes to another area of your life? You must stay on guard and alert, knowing the enemy prowls like a lion, looking for those to devour. But also know, by the power of the Holy Spirit living in you, you have what it takes to fight the enemy—where God says to stand or to flee. God will protect you; just ask in HIS name and by HIS will.

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# **ALL" PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED BY OUR WITNESS**

### 2 Kings 5:1-15 Naaman Healed of Leprosy

Naaman was a paramount leader in the army of King Aram. But he had contracted leprosy. A highly contagious disease that, in the end, will kill you. During the illness, because it is contagious, you are often banished from others, even sent to live out your days with others who have the same disease. Naaman, like us all, when we are sick, was looking for a cure. He had heard of a prophet named Elisha who could cure him. So he decided to find him so that he could cure him. What can we learn from Naaman regarding our own need for healing?

*2 Kings 5:1 Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.*

1. Naaman was highly regarded among the army and the king. However, no amount of power, popularity, or money can protect you from certain diseases.

*2 Kings 5:2-3 Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife.****3****She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."*

1. God can use anyone to speak His truth, even a child. Often, we are looking for a message written in the sky or through a great sermon, but there are many times God will use a child, or even someone lost, to tell us something. The key is, are we listening?

Also, it's essential to realize this child was captured and had become a slave. She had every right to be angry, but instead, she showed compassion to her master. What about you? Do you find yourself in difficult circumstances? Maybe you thought your life would have turned out differently? Can you see God's hand in it? Do you see how God wants you to use your life in the midst of where you find yourself for His purpose?

*2 Kings 5:4 Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said.*

1. When you are hurting, you will do anything to feel better. Sometimes we medicate our pain with food, stuff, and activity, etc. Naaman was at the point that he listened to a young slave girl's recommendation of Elisha, the prophet who could heal him. What are you willing to do to get help? Do you find yourself trying to fix your pain, or are you turning to God?

*2 Kings 5:5-6 Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said.****5****"By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talentsof silver, six thousand shekelsof gold and ten sets of clothing.****6****The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."*

1. Naaman, a good follower, went to his king and told him what he had learned. The king, who favored Naaman, was also wanting him to be healed. Being a typical businessman, he sent a letter to show authority and favor for Naaman and money. The king assumed that Elisha would want this…money for his healing for Naaman. And Naaman must have thought the same as he took it with him. There are times God does ask us to tithe, to give, to serve as a way to give back to God what is already his. But there are other times; God does not ask for anything. He simply wants us to accept the gifts he gives us. The most essential gift is the one of salvation. Do you find yourself trying to buy God's favor? Do you overserve, thinking God will be happy with you? Do you let others know how much you give to God to win their favor?

*2 Kings 5:7 As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"*

1. So Naaman took the letters and money to the king in Isreal, where Elisha lived, asking to be cured. However, this king got frustrated with Naaman's request as he knew he had no power to do this. He was even concerned that this request was made in a way to start a fight. This is another place where God used someone to remind us of who He is and where the power comes from. The king was on the other end of authority from the little girl but affirmed where the power came from. It is nothing our money, education, or position provides. It is only by the Holy Spirit.

*2 Kings 5: 8-10 When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel."****9****So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house.****10****Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."*

1. So praise the Lord, Elisha heard about Naaman and his request and what the king of Israel did. He sent word for Naaman to come to him. But when Naaman arrived, Elisha sent a messenger to tell Naaman what to do. Yet again, God used another person to disclose Naaman information. This time, an assistant of Elisha. Someone who was neither of influence or power nor a child. Who has God spoken to you through? Are you expecting someone of excellent knowledge or power?

*2 Kings 5: 11-12 But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy.****12****Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.*

1. Naaman was expecting this great prophet of God that he had heard of to come to the door himself. Like most of us, we want God to be Santa Clause or a wizard. We want him to answer our prayers, giving us full attention, and ignoring the circumstances. And while God can instantly heal, sometimes God wants us to learn something in the process. Also, Naaman was used to people answering his beck and call because of who he was. He would argue with Elisha's assistant about why it had to be the river Jordan and why seven times. I understand Naaman completely. Often God gives us directions for our lives, and we want to argue with him. We do not see what God is doing. We think we know better. We forget who we are talking to. We can get so impatient and want to give up.

*2 Kings 5: 13-14 Naaman's servants went to him and said, "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'!"****14****So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.*

1. So here we go again, yet another person God chooses to speak to Naaman, one of his servants. I was surprised Naaman didn't punish him, but I believe Naaman, deep inside, was a man with a soft heart. A man who valued people no matter where they came from. A man who wanted to be cured and had to let go of his anger, need to control, and his need to want to do it his way.

I love that this servant said, if Elisha's messenger told you to do something great (because we all love to get attention and accomplish something significant), you would have done it. Yes, folks, dipping yourself in the dirty Jordan is embarrassing. Yes, there are times God asks you to do something uncomfortable. Maybe you need to apologize to someone? Perhaps you need to give in to not having your way? Maybe you need to admit you are wrong? The servant reminds Naaman that dipping himself would end up being washed and cleansed.

This reminds me of:
2. When you accept the Lord as your savior, you are cleansed from your sins. We get baptized as a witness to others of our belief. Naaman did the same thing, showing his belief in God, the only one who could heal him.
3. I wondered why seven times versus just once? Maybe it was because dipping one time was too easy. Perhaps there are seven areas of Naaman's life that needed repenting? What about you? What is God asking you to give away, lay down, be cleansed from?
4. God not only healed Naaman, but his flesh was new as a child. God asks us all to come to Him like a child, innocent, and to trust Him.

*2 Kings 5: 13-15**Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant."*

1. His healing was a witness to all, including his servants. Naaman would go back to Elisha, who at this time would face him in person to tell him of his 100% belief in God. This is an excellent lesson for us too. When God does something in your life, let others know about it. And don't' forget to thank those who have to help you along the way. Whether it's a child God uses, to a friend, a family member, your pastor, or even through a lost person, thank them for how God used them.

We would learn further that Naaman tried to give Elisha some money for curing him, and Elisha refused. This doesn't mean that our pastors, churches, ministries, etc., do not need our support. This simply means there are times we need reminding of where the cure comes from and the fact it costs NOTHING but believes in the Lord.

*To bring Kris to your city/ministry in person or by zoom, call her at 919.434.3611 or email at swiatocho@gmail.com.*

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