

★ THE ★ Value of GROWTH

Growth is something we all aspire towards. No one wants to be stuck in the same spot. But sometimes it feels as if we have a stone, stuck in our shoe, preventing us from moving forward. What can we do to remove that stone?

REFERENCE: 2 Kings 5:1-16

THINKING POINTS

1. Read 2 Kings 5:1-12. The 'stone in Naaman's shoe' was leprosy. Is there something in the story that resonates with you? What is your stone?
2. In verse 11, Naaman says "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." It is evident from the verses, that Naaman has come to God with an expectation of how he should be healed. Sometimes we have expectations for exactly how we want God to do things for us. But that isn't how He operates. We could even miss the wonder in waiting and watching for the miracle! Could you be like Naaman? **Are you missing out, because you're not keen on God's methods for answering your prayers?**

In 2 Kings 5:13-16, we see Naaman being advised by his servants to go back to the Jordan River. They ask Naaman, "how much more then?" How much more would he do to be healed? Why wouldn't he do the simplest of tasks, one that does not require anything from him? They tell Naaman what he needs to hear, rather than what he wants to hear.

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.

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."

2 KINGS 5:13-16

NEXT STEPS

1. In an enormous step of faith, he makes himself vulnerable. Naaman gets out of his armor, steps into the river, and dips in the water. After the seventh dip, he realizes that his healing had nothing to do with the water, and everything to do with his faith in God.
2. What is obstructing your growth? *Pride? Thoughts and Opinions? Lack of follow-through? Failing to trust the process? The people in your environment?*
3. The biggest thing that we can do to conquer these obstacles is to **say yes**. The way we grow our faith journey is one dip at a time.

Say yes to humility ✨ "God, I am going to trust You."

Say yes to repetition ✨ Continuously say yes with faith... results will follow.

Say yes to results ✨ When we respond, change will come.

Naaman wanted God to wave His hand over his leprosy spots.

But God was trying to wave His hand over another spot that needed intervention. The spot of pride, of presumption, of "knowing better than..."

What spot does God need to wave His hand over, in your life?