

OVERCOMING

Hurts, Habits and Hang-Ups That Hold Us Back

Lesson One • 2Kings 5:1-19

Overcoming Self-Importance

Who Is Naaman?

Naaman is man who almost STUMBLED to his death over self-importance!

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16:18

Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria.

He was also a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. 2Kings 5:1

A Man Stumbling Over Self-Importance:

- Naaman was a MILITARY man: he was the commander of the Syrian army.
- Naaman was a MIGHTY man: he was highly regarded and successful in battle.
- Naaman was a MISERABLE man: he was plagued with leprosy.

A Case Study of Overcoming Self-Importance:

1. Naaman Is HUMBLED by God's Instructions! 2Kings 5:2-12

God's Instructions through Elisha:

"STRIP AND DIP" in the Jordan River seven times, and you will be healed of your leprosy.

And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." 2Kings 5:10

Naaman's Pride Is Revealed by Two Words:

"I THOUGHT"

But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought..." 2Kings 5:11 NIV

The Danger of Pride:

- Pride causes us to EXALT our opinions as supreme.

"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. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" 2Kings 5:11-12 NIV

- Pride causes us to GET ANGRY when we don't get what we want.

But Naaman became furious...So he turned and went away in a rage. 2Kings 5:11-12

- Pride causes us to MISS OUT on God's grace in our lives.

God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." 1Peter 5:5

2. Naaman Is HEALED by His Humble Obedience! 2Kings 5:12-19

Why does God sometimes ask us to do things we don't understand?

Like Naaman, we first need to be HUMBLED before we can be healed, and HUMILITY brings us to the point of obedience and healing.

And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. 2Kings 5:13-14

What do we learn from Naaman about overcoming self-importance?

Don't stumble, be HUMBLE and do what God tells you to do!

Why? Based on our humble obedience, we will either look back on life with a sigh of RELIEF or feel the pain of REGRET!