



Christian Faith Fellowship

- We are not a perfect church

-We are not a perfect people

**-We are here because we know we need
God's help and He has provided this help
through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

**CFF exists to Know Christ and to make Him
Known!**

Living the Faith

- **Have you spent at least 5 minutes a day at least 5 days this week reading your Bible?**
- **Have you shared your conversion story/or a God story with a non-believer this week?**
- **Are you praying about “Who” for Salvation Sunday September 25?**
- **Are you hearing what the Spirit is saying?**
- **Did you spend some alone time with God this week?**

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. 2 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."

- I pause to emphasize a point... this young girl was taken as a slave!
- Even though she was taken from her home, taken to a foreign land and was a slave SHE still believed in God and shared about Him with her masters!!!
- How do you respond to God when your life gets taken in a direction that seems so alone and abandoned?!
- Do you believe God when you are in a place you don't think He should have you?

2 Kings 5:

4 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 talents of silver, six thousand shekels of 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.” 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!” 8 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.”

11 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.

- As we reflect upon the story of Naaman... I wonder today how many of us have “Expected God to do something and when He didn’t meet our expectations – we’ve walked away angry ... with the same problem we came with?
- We have all kinds of expectations for God... as soon as something doesn’t go our way we throw a tantrum, blame God, questions God, or walk away from the situation and go somewhere else!
- God’s not interested in our “better idea”... He has a plan!

13 Naaman's servants went to him & 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 & be cleansed'!" 14 So he went down & dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, & his flesh was restored & became clean like that of a young boy.

- God wants Full Obedience!
- We may have to do something we don't want (dirty water) to but He wants obedience!

- Sometimes God leads us to walk through some dirty waters... when we can see some very clear alternatives! He KNOWS what He is doing! He is after obedience!
- Are we willing to let God do things the way He wants? Of course we will say yes to that...
- Let's examine the Apostle Paul... A sold out 100% obedient servant of God. Let's look at a proclamation of what he wrote about his service to God and see that sometimes obedience takes us down some difficult roads & some tough situations!

2 Corinthians 11:23-27

23 Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. 24 Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. 26 I have traveled on many long journeys

I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not.

27 I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm.

- All of this took place as He followed God's lead!
- Throughout the Bible you will find that MOST of the men & women who followed God went through some very challenging, difficult times!
- MOST of the time God didn't choose to remove them from situations that were less than pleasurable!
- MOST of the time they simply followed in obedience even into the greatest of challenges!
- MOST of the time things didn't happen on their schedule or in their preferred place...

- **Joseph** had a dream from God about being a leader of his family... shared his dream and was sold by his brothers to be a slave in a foreign land... he stayed true to God even through slavery, false charges of rape, prison, and FINALLY, in the very land he went through all of that... the dream God gave him came true... but it wasn't until after several years of challenges & difficulty that the dream came true!
- Joseph had many opportunities to question God's plan and ask "why this way?"

- **David**: defeated Goliath, a rising hero of the people,
- then he is anointed by the prophet of God to be the next King... shortly AFTER the anointing King Saul tries to murder him 2x... then he has to run for his life for nearly 14 years!!
- David had many opportunities to question God's plan and ask "Why this way?"
- We could talk about many of Israel's judges, Naomi, Ruth, Samuel, Most of the O.T. Prophets, the Disciples etc. to fully examine God's path vs ours...

Action Steps: Life Application

- Many of us aren't willing to surrender our own comfort – our own ideas – our own plans... God is looking for an obedient heart!
- Will you do whatever God asks? (Do you know what God is asking?)
- Do you trust Him enough to do it His way – to walk down His path and fulfill His plan?
- Will you praise Him with whatever results He chooses to bring about?