



## Turning for a Transformation

***“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 a leper”*** (2 Kings 5:1).

Have you ever been in need of change? Maybe you remember this man, Naaman, the leper? He was a person who really needed a change bad! He tried everything, but nothing was capable of transforming his ailing condition. The remote prospect of becoming well seemed hopeless to him ...that is until his wife's handmaiden gave him an interesting suggestion. She thought it might be good for him to make a trip to go visit the Prophet Elijah, through whom God had performed several great miracles. What did he have to lose right? Options for Naaman were absent, M.I.A., nonexistent. Therefore, he gave in and decided to go seek Elijah's help.

Now in spite of Naaman's physically problematic condition, he was the type of guy who was used to getting his way when he wanted it. People knew him as one who called the shots and Naaman did have some definite ideas on just how he felt the Lord should remediate his particular situation. He probably wanted an instant healing. And Elijah upset these expectations by commanding Naaman to go and wash himself in the Jordan River seven times. Elijah wasn't the sort of person looking to please everyone; even though I'm sure he really wanted to help. As we should be, Elijah was out to please only One – the Lord.

Now Naaman felt furious inside when he heard this and he almost walked away from the incredible transformation that God had in store for him. Fortunately, Naaman's servants were able to convince him to set aside his preconceived expectations and simply do as Elijah requested. Yes, this would call for an act of true humility, but again Naaman had nothing to lose. God wasn't out to embarrass him either. Check out what followed! It's a fanatic testimony to God's transforming power: ***“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”*** (2 Kin. 5:14 nkjv).

Humility carries a lot of *gewicht* (weight), yes, *mucho clout* with God. Perhaps you remember Josiah? He became a king when he was 8 years old, a seeker at 16, a reformer at 20, and a humble servant of God at age 26. His dramatic spiritual growth and leadership resulted from his humbly turning to God, listening to God's Word and then obeying what he heard. While the temple in Jerusalem was being repaired and purified -- that long-neglected Book of the Law was found and read aloud to young King Josiah. It

was way-powerful! When he heard it, he immediately humbled himself, tore his robes, and wept profusely in the presence of God (2 Chron. 34:19,27). God said, ***“Because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before God . . . , I also have heard you”*** (v. 27).

*God's remedy for rebellion is humble confession and repentance. Confess and forsake sin before it's too late. —Dennis Fisher*

***“Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted”*** (2 Cor. 7:10).

*Repentance is to leave the sin that we had loved before, And showing we are grieved by it by doing it no more. —Anonymous*

Maybe you need cleansing or reviving? Perhaps you feel sick of your life how it is and need a transformation? Listen, what God did for Naaman, he could do for you. You and I need the living Word of God! God says, ***“I am the LORD that healeth thee”*** (Isa. 15:26). The Bible speaks of the Healer, Jesus Christ saying He, ***“is the same yesterday, today, and forever”*** (Heb. 13:8). While on earth, Jesus healed people physically, psychologically, and most importantly, spiritually – He still does. Fixing your problem is so easy for Him, so please let go of your pride. He doesn't always do things our way but He knows what's best. Come as you are to Jesus Christ today! It might not be cool with your friends, but He can completely wash you from all sin and sins!

***Lord, we come before Thee now, at Thy feet we humbly bow;  
Oh, do not our suit disdain! Shall we seek Thee, Lord, in vain?  
Lord, on Thee our souls depend; in compassion now descend.***

--William Hammond 1745

In the biblical record, we see that Naaman did experience God's transformation. No amount of money could buy that. He was made whole! But carefully notice that it came on God's terms and not his own. It's imperative for us to comprehend this because many Americans long for God to change them – to bless them – to touch them – to heal them, yet it often doesn't happen because we aren't willing to submit to God's terms or His authority. America is more and more becoming a place of choices, where we can have it our way, where we do things on our terms. We often forget that He is God and we aren't. We want God to do His work our way, in our timing and this might never happen. We Americans can learn from Naaman's example by abandoning our own expectations – our own agendas, our own way and by accepting God's terms for transformation. Come on His terms. He's not on some ego trip.

Have you ever stubbornly resisted God's terms for transformation? Have you ever resisted or mocked a Christian who was trying to tell you how to get right with God? Jesus taught us to pray: ***“Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth.”*** When Christ was agonizing in Gethsemane over that whole cross-deal before Him, He made His request in humble submission to His Heavenly Father by saying, ***“Your will be done”***

(Matt. 26:42). Then He obeyed the Father. That Gethsemane principle ought to govern all our praying and living.

*O Lord, how we need a revival!  
Please let it begin in me. O God, may I seek You and serve You  
With love and humility. —Fitzhugh*

In Old Testament times, the Lord told Israel to put bread in the Holy Place of the tabernacle—His "house of symbols." There in that first room, twelve loaves were to be displayed on a golden table "**before the Lord**" (Lev. 24:6). Those vary loaves reminded Israel that God always provides for His own when they just come to Him on His terms. The bread reflected God's promise to provide for all who hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matt. 5:6; 6:31-34).

Are you hungry for more? What have you been trying to fill that inner void with?—more work?—money?—entertainment? Hey, God loves you so much and He will provide. He will help you if you only reach out to Him. The psalmist declared that the Lord "**teaches sinners in the way. The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way**" (Ps. 25:8-9).

You remember what happened while the temple in Jerusalem was being renovated and purified. The long-neglected Book of the Law was found and read aloud to young King Josiah. When he heard it, he instantly humbled himself, tore his robes, and wept in the presence of God (2 Chron. 34:19,27). Josiah realized the heinous sins of those who had led the nation before him, and he determined in his heart that deep and lasting change had to begin with him. His public renewal of the covenant and His commitment to follow the Lord without compromise – to keep His commands – literally ignited a red-hot revival that swept the entire nation (vv.31-33).

Josiah became a king when he was 8 years old, a seeker at 16, a reformer at 20, and a humble servant of God at age 26. His aggressive spiritual growth and fearless leadership resulted from listening to God's Word and then obeying what he heard.

*"From the first day that you set your heart to understand, and  
to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard"  
(Dan. 10:12).*

**GOD LOVES TRUE HUMILITY!** Arrogance is so *gag-me* to Him – He resists that kind of weirdness. I like what God says in 2 Chronicles 34:27, "**Because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before God . . . I also have heard you.**"

What's wrong with the nation where you live today? Apathy? Materialism? Inordinate busyness? Violence? Lust? Indifference toward God? Avarice? Demanding "*my own way*?" How long has your nation been sinking into a moral and spiritual quagmire? Are you feeling too poor, or too young, or too old, or too powerless to do anything about it?

Some of the people in the Bible that God used to change things for the better were too broke, too young, too old and too powerless, but they humbly prayed, obeyed and expected! And God intervened with power. Will you?

Maybe like Naaman, you want to turn to God on His terms and be changed? If so, would you pray a prayer something like this... ***Lord, have Your own way and send a revival (send Christ) into my heart today – please let spiritual revival and awakening begin in me.***

Romans 3:23 says, ***“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”***

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| <b>1.</b> | <b>ADMIT</b>   | - you've done wrong and are in spiritual need.     |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>REPENT</b>  | - humbly be willing to turn from your sin.         |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>BELIEVE</b> | - that Jesus Christ died on the cross to save you. |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>RECEIVE</b> | - through prayer, Jesus Christ into your life.     |

Romans 10:13 says ***“For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”***

*Jesus, I know I am a sinner, but I desire a close relationship with You. I mean it. I believe You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for hurting You. Right now, in the best way I know, I turn from my sins and by faith open the door of my heart to receive You. I invite You to become my Lord and take control of my life. Keep me, use me and with Your love, change me into the person You want me to be. Thank You for saving me! Amen.*

Go ahead and make this the prayer of your heart, if it expresses your sincere desire. Coming to God on His terms, Jesus Christ will come in and save you, just as He promised.

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