No Buts About It
2 Kings 5:1-15

The story of Naaman reveals God's power to work in any circumstance in our life.

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. [13]*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 5:1; 13-15 (New International Version)

The *ifs* and *buts* can limit what God desires to do. How can we prepare ourselves to receive God's power at work? Namaan took several steps that we also can take.

➢ **STEP 1: ADMIT YOU HAVE A PROBLEM.**

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. [26]*Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.* Hebrews 7:25-26 (NIV)

➢ **STEP 2: BE WILLING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.**

- Pray
- What does God's Word say about it?
- Seek advice
- Repent and confess your need for God

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. [9]*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* 1 John 1:8-9 (NIV)

➢ **STEP 3: BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE.**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Romans 12:1 (NIV)

➢ **STEP 4: BE OPEN TO CHANGE.**

<u>Principle</u>: Pride mixed with impatience is a recipe for spiritual poverty and disease.

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. [19]*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.* Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)

➢ **STEP 5: LOOK FOR THE UNEXPECTED.**

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. 2 Kings 5:14 (NIV)

- God will work in His way, not ours
- God will work in His timing, not ours
- God will work in His power, not our strength
- God will work for His glory, not our credit

APPLICATION:

- The greatest miracle – the greatest power – the greatest revelation of who God is, is a changed life in Jesus Christ!
- When God works powerfully in our lives, unexpected changes in your life may occur. Look for the unexpected.
- Believe in the power of God to heal every circumstance.
- Believe that God sees and cares for your need.
- Believe in the attributes and nature of God.
- Believe in the deep and abiding love the Father has for you.
- Believe that God can turn your mourning into dancing and your grief into joy.
- Believe in the totality of Christ's sacrifice on the cross for your redemption!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13 (NIV)

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

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. ⁶The 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." ⁷As 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!" ⁸When 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."

So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha 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." ¹¹But 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. ¹²Are 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. ¹³Naaman'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'!" ¹⁴So 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. ¹⁵Then 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 5:1-15 (NIV)