

Strange Answers

2 Kings 5:1-14

2 Kings 5:1-3 The king of Aram had great admiration for Naaman, the commander of his army, because through him the LORD had given Aram great victories. But though Naaman was a mighty warrior, he suffered from leprosy.^[a]

²At this time Aramean raiders had invaded the land of Israel, and among their captives was a young girl who had been given to Naaman's wife as a maid. ³One day the girl said to her mistress, "I wish my master would go to see the prophet in Samaria. He would heal him of his leprosy."

I am amazed and inspired by those who regardless of where they are or what has happened to them, they remember their God. Here Naaman, and this little unnamed slave girl, I repeat slave girl without bitterness or questioning God, remembered him and was a witness for Him!

Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, is another great example of someone who would not forget His God. When his boss's wife tried to seduce him he said, "How could I do this and sin against God?" He somehow maintained his trust in the Lord and truly saw God's purpose in his life when he was promoted to second in command in Egypt and provided food for not only his family but most of the known world at that time.

How often do you suppose Joseph prayed and asked God to take him home or to see his family? Joseph couldn't have imagined how God was planning to answer his prayer, his dreams notwithstanding.

Beginning early on in the Old Testament we find men and women calling on God and God answering them! God is so pleased by this.

Genesis 4:26 And to Seth also a son was born, and he called him Enosh. At that time men began to call upon the name of the LORD.

Genesis 5:23-24 Enoch lived 365 years, walking in close fellowship with God. Then one day he disappeared, because God took him.

Jeremiah 33:3 Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come. Call: ask, read, declare, cry, wait...

2 Kings 5:4-9 ⁴So Naaman told the king what the young girl from Israel had said. ⁵"Go and visit the prophet," the king of Aram told him. "I will send a letter of introduction for you to

take to the king of Israel.” So Naaman started out, carrying as gifts 750 pounds of silver, 150 pounds of gold,¹⁰ and ten sets of clothing. ⁶The letter to the king of Israel said: “With this letter I present my servant Naaman. I want you to heal him of his leprosy.”

⁸But when Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes in dismay, he sent this message to him: “Why are you so upset? Send Naaman to me, and he will learn that there is a true prophet here in Israel.”

⁹So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and waited at the door of Elisha’s house.

¹⁰But Elisha sent a messenger out to him with this message: “Go and wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River. Then your skin will be restored, and you will be healed of your leprosy.”

¹¹But Naaman became angry and stalked away. “I thought he would certainly come out to meet me!” he said. “I expected him to wave his hand over the leprosy and call on the name of the LORD his God and heal me! ¹²Aren’t the rivers of Damascus, the Abana and the Pharpar, better than any of the rivers of Israel? Why shouldn’t I wash in them and be healed?” So Naaman turned and went away in a rage.

³But his officers tried to reason with him and said, “Sir,¹³ if the prophet had told you to do something very difficult, wouldn’t you have done it? So you should certainly obey him when he says simply, ‘Go and wash and be cured!’” ¹⁴So Naaman went down to the Jordan River and dipped himself seven times, as the man of God had instructed him. And his skin became as healthy as the skin of a young child, and he was healed!

Isaiah 55: 8-9 “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD.

“And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.

⁹For just as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so my ways are higher than your ways

and my thoughts higher than your thoughts

1Thessalonians 5:23-24 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it....

Our lack or need should move us to call on God and in so doing we find a relationship with the Almighty! But we must never forget that he is God and we are not. It is going to be His way. We

must humble ourselves to walk with God. His will and purposes will often far exceed what we had in mind, therefore, we must continue to seek Him and let Him show himself strong to those of us whose heart is blameless, wholly committed and unwavering in trusting Him!

What now God, not Why God, should be the question.

1 Kings 17:8-12 Then the LORD said to Elijah, **9**“Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. I have instructed a widow there to feed you.”

10So he went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the gates of the village, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her, “Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?”

11As she was going to get it, he called to her, “Bring me a bite of bread, too.”

12But she said, “I swear by the LORD your God that I don’t have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die.”

1 Kings 17:9-16 But Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you’ve said, but make a little bread for me first. Then use what’s left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son. **14**For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the LORD sends rain and the crops grow again!”

15So she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her family continued to eat for many days. **16**There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the LORD had promised through Elijah.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 Rather, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart has imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him.” **10**But God has revealed it to us by the Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

Matthew 10:41 "He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a

righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

This scripture teaches us that the Holy Spirit will guide you into the things of God, through prayer, the word and putting desires in your heart. By listening to and following the Holy Spirit you will experience the blessings that come from God's presence and God working in your life.

The things of the Spirit however are not naturally accepted (discerned) nor do they necessarily make sense to your mind and especially to those around you who are not in the same travail or seeking prayer that you are.

Hebrews 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder to those who seek Him. (earnestly, diligently seek).*

Often people will tell you, "Now you must use wisdom or common sense. You can't just go off doing something crazy. The above scripture declares that is impossible to please God without faith, not wisdom or common sense or some modern or man-made technique or thought process.

Ephesians 3:20 *Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.* (according to the power that works in us,) **New King James Version (NKJV)**

James 1:16-17 *Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 17Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, with whom there is no change or shifting shadow* The KJV reads: "...no variableness or shadow of turning."

We should never make God variable by what we say or think, or how we live. We are variable not God! Experience should never trump the truth. There are many things we don't understand that happen in our lives. However, often, probably too often we give up fighting or believing way too soon and that's why God's "good and perfect gift" is not regularly seen in our lives. God can be trusted. He will answer our prayers, he will give aid or help in times of trouble.

Many around us will say that they have "experienced" that God doesn't always answer and so on. Truth is we sometimes give up too soon, or move too soon. Look at King Saul when he couldn't wait on Samuel. God could no longer use Saul as King over Israel because he was impatient and moved by the fear of man. God couldn't have this example before His people and the world.

Too often in preaching or counselling we try to "Christianize" peoples experiences because we don't want them to feel bad. What I mean by that is we actually go against what the truth is about God and try to find some hidden meaning why something went wrong or why apparently God didn't come through

or answer our prayer. In so doing we make God variable. How can we trust in Him if he is shady or shifty?

We all lose battles in our lives, not because it's God's will but because sometimes we just give up or we quit too soon. However, if we keep seeking God we will win the war. In fact it is already won. We should learn from our mistakes and failures instead of blaming or "crediting" God with the outcome when it really wasn't his will.