



Times of Worship

- Sunday Bible Classes:** 9am
Sunday AM Worship: 10am
Sunday PM Worship: 5pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm

Join us Online

Church Website:

<https://www.westfayettechurchofchrist.com/>

YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGckN8D9NwwX3KUbQ4GRKyA>

Interested in a Bible Study?

Please send an email to patcawthon@gmail.com

Evangelist

Patrick Cawthon

Healing of Naaman

In **2 Kings 5** there is a powerful story about the healing of a Syrian army captain named Naaman. The Lord had given victory to Aram through his fighting and leadership. He was one of the most powerful men in the world with only one deadly problem, he was a leper. Leprosy was an incurable disease that was highly contagious. As leprosy spread in someone's body, it lead to nerve damage resulting in crippling of hands and feet, paralysis, and blindness.

This "valiant warrior" who could defeat most anyone on the battlefield with a sword and bow could not defeat the disease in his body. He had no hope. His future was very dim knowing he could not be near his family or he would infect them with this terrible disease.

Naaman's wife's servant was a "little girl from the land of Israel" whom the Syrian army had captured in one of their raids. She knew of Elisha, the prophet of God in Samaria, and believed he could cure her master of leprosy. With a sliver of hope, Naaman left his home towards Samaria with a lot of money to try and persuade Elisha to heal his leprosy.

He came to Elisha's house hoping Elisha would come out and do something amazing to cure his leprosy. Naaman was excited and ready to bless Elisha with many gifts. To Naaman's disappointment, Elisha did amaze him with some great show to cure his leprosy. In fact, Elisha did not even show his face to this highly respected man of Syria. Elisha told his servant to tell Naaman to go dip in the Jordan River seven times to restore his flesh.

Week of August 13

Attendance

- ♦ **AM Service** - 65
- ♦ **PM Service** - 44
- ♦ **Wednesday** - 51

Contribution

- ♦ Weekly Budget \$2,400
- ♦ Contribution - \$2,953

Upcoming Birthdays

- ♦ Rashad Carswell (8/20)
- ♦ Rachel Seaton (8/22)
- ♦ Dianne McCoy (8/30)

Calendar Items

Women's Bible Study on
Tuesday at the building at 11a

Men's Meeting on August 27th
at 4pm at the building

Song Learning Class on Sunday
September 10 at 4pm

Today's Lessons

- ♦ **AM Sermon** - Share the
Wealth
- ♦ **PM Service** - Bible Study
(Discipleship Series)

Naaman was mad and did not like how he was treated by Elisha. He also complained about the instructions; the waters of the Jordan are dirty compared to the waters in Syria. "He turned and wet away in a rage." He traveled all this way for this?!

The servants of Naaman who had traveled with him talked some sense into him and convinced him to do what he was told. Naaman agrees and dips six times in the Jordan still a leper. On the seventh time, he comes out of the Jordan with the flesh "of a little child and was clean."

This story of Naaman being cured of the incurable is very parallel to our own. Our sin is something we can never remove on our own. No amount of good deeds or animal sacrifices will ever atone for our sins against God. Jesus came to cure us from sin and took our place appeasing God so we can have the hope of being with Him for all eternity.

What we need to do in order to remove our disease of sin is spelled out for us very clearly. When Peter and the other apostles preached the first gospel sermon in Acts 2 the crowd was convicted of their sin. They had crucified God's Son and asked, "What shall we do?" Here is Peter's reply to their question, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (**Act 2:38**)

In order to remove our sins and receive this amazing gift of God's grace, doesn't this seem pretty non-spectacular? Many today refuse to believe that baptism is necessary for salvation. Just like Naaman refused at first to obey God's simple commands, many today refuse to be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins.

As Namaan's servants said to him, "Had the prophet told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more then, the he says to you 'Wash, and be clean?'" In the same way, why would someone refuse baptism because they don't agree with the method to be forgiven?

Trust and obey; for there's no other way.

Patrick