

Healing Class - Gratitude Before the Miracle, Gratitude After the Miracle

October 14, 2026

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The Healing Of Naaman: 2 Kings 5:1-19

- A grateful heart trusts God before He acts and praises God after He acts.
- Many people think gratitude begins when prayers are answered, but biblical gratitude begins long before the answer arrives. Gratitude says, "Lord, I trust Your goodness even when I have not yet seen the outcome."

Gratitude Before Receiving From God

- Naaman's Journey Required Faith
- When Naaman left Syria, he had no assurance he would be healed. He only had a promise.

Imagine what gratitude would have looked like during his journey:

- Leaving home believing God could work
- Traveling a great distance
- Taking the prophet's instructions seriously
- Continuing to obey despite disappointment

Gratitude before the blessing says: "God, I thank You because You are good, not because my circumstances are good."

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- Notice Paul doesn't say: "Give thanks after the answer comes." He says: "Bring your request with thanksgiving."
- Thanksgiving accompanies the request.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV)

In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- Not for everything. In everything. Even while waiting.

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

- Gratitude is one of faith's languages.
- Faith believes. Gratitude celebrates before it sees.

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- **Area Where Many Of Us Need To Adjust**
 - **Where We Start:** Many people worship God for what He does.
 - **Where We Must Go:** Mature believers worship God for who He is.
- If God is good today, then we can be grateful before tomorrow's answer arrives.

Gratitude Produces Obedience

- Initially, Naaman was offended.
- He expected God to work differently. "I thought..." (2 Kings 5:11)
- **Something To Consider:** How many blessings have been delayed because people were more committed to their expectations than God's instructions?
- The servants gently redirected Naaman.
- When he finally humbled himself and obeyed, healing followed.

What Can We Learn From This Part Of The Story?

- A grateful heart is teachable.
- An entitled heart argues.
- Gratitude says: "Lord, if You said it, I will do it." Even when it doesn't make sense.

John 14:15 (NLT)

If you love me, obey my commandments.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

- A grateful person trusts God's wisdom above his own.

Gratitude After Receiving From God

- The turning point of the story isn't Naaman being healed.
- The turning point is what he does after being healed.

2 Kings 5:15 (NKJV)

And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides...

- Many people receive God's blessings and continue on their way.
- Naaman came back. He intentionally returned to express gratitude.
- The blessing changed his body. Gratitude changed his heart.

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- Naaman publicly acknowledged God. He declared, "Now I know that there is a God in all of the earth, but in Israel."
- The healed man became a worshipper. The miracle brought him into relationship with God.

What Can We Learn From This Part Of The Story?

- The greatest blessing was not his restored skin.
- The greatest blessing was his new understanding of God.
- Sometimes we become so focused on what God gives that we miss God Himself.

Gratitude Leads to Worship

Notice the progression:

- **Need to Faith to Obedience to Blessing to Gratitude to Worship**
- The goal is not merely healthier bodies, better finances, or improved circumstances.
- The goal is a deeper relationship with Him.

Ten Healed Of Leprosy: Luke 17:11-19

- Jesus healed ten lepers. Only one returned.
- Jesus asked: "Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?"
- The one who returned was the one who truly understood gratitude.

Naaman

- Healed of leprosy
- Returned to say thank you
- Acknowledged the true God

The One Leper

- Healed of leprosy
- Returned to Jesus
- Worshipped at His feet
- The thankful person always comes back to God.

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Practical Application

Before the Blessing

Ask yourself:

- Can I thank God while I am still waiting?
- Can I praise Him before the answer arrives?
- Do I trust God's character when I do not understand His timing?

After the Blessing

Ask yourself:

- Have I returned to thank Him?
- Have I publicly acknowledged His goodness?
- Has the gift drawn me closer to the Giver?

Key Points To Remember

- Gratitude is faith before the miracle and worship after the miracle.
- A grateful heart thanks God before the answer because it trusts His character, and thanks God after the answer because it recognizes His goodness.

Psalm 100:4 (NLT)

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name.

- Notice the order. Thanksgiving comes before entering. Before the blessing. Before the breakthrough. Before the answer.
- God's people approach Him with gratitude first.
- Then, after He moves, they return in worship just as Naaman did.

Don't wait until God changes your circumstances to become grateful. Be grateful because God is faithful.