

Evangelism Part 5

“19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:19-20 KJV)

The Lord wants us to evangelize and to reach the lost. Another door that God had opened to us as a church to spread His Word and the message of salvation is through the miracles that God will do in people's life. Let us read the following Scriptures from the Old Testament that speaks about the healing of God.

“1 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. 2 Now bands from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. 3 She said to her mistress, 'If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.' 4 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. 6 The 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.' 7 As 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!' 8 When 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.' 9 So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. 10 Elisha 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.' 11 But 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. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?' So he turned and went off in a rage. 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. Please accept now a gift from your servant.' 16 The prophet answered, 'As surely as the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing.' And even though Naaman urged him, he refused. 17 'If you will not,' said Naaman, 'please let me, your servant, be given as much earth as a pair of mules can carry, for your servant will never again make burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god but the LORD. 18

But may the LORD forgive your servant for this one thing: When my master enters the temple of Rimmon to bow down and he is leaning on my arm and I bow there also--when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD forgive your servant for this.' 19 'Go in peace,' Elisha said. After Naaman had traveled some distance, 20 Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said to himself, 'My master was too easy on Naaman, this Aramean, by not accepting from him what he brought. As surely as the LORD lives, I will run after him and get something from him.' 21 So Gehazi hurried after Naaman. When Naaman saw him running toward him, he got down from the chariot to meet him. 'Is everything all right?' he asked. 22 'Everything is all right,' Gehazi answered. 'My master sent me to say, 'Two young men from the company of the prophets have just come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two sets of clothing.' 23 'By all means, take two talents,' said Naaman. He urged Gehazi to accept them, and then tied up the two talents of silver in two bags, with two sets of clothing. He gave them to two of his servants, and they carried them ahead of Gehazi. 24 When Gehazi came to the hill, he took the things from the servants and put them away in the house. He sent the men away and they left. 25 Then he went in and stood before his master Elisha. 'Where have you been, Gehazi?' Elisha asked. 'Your servant didn't go anywhere,' Gehazi answered. 26 But Elisha said to him, 'Was not my spirit with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take money, or to accept clothes, olive groves, vineyards, flocks, herds, or menservants and maidservants? 27 Naaman's leprosy will cling to you and to your descendants forever.' Then Gehazi went from Elisha's presence and he was leprous, as white as snow.” (2 Kings 5:1-27)

The following points we should conclude from the Scripture as we are learning lessons on evangelism:-

1. God love the Gentiles and here in the healing of Naaman from Leprosy God extend His salvation to them. God love all the nations. Therefore we as a church we need to persevere with the Lord to reach new nations with the Gospel of Jesus, as He instructed us: *“15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:15-16 KJV)* *We need to go forward and evangelize in preaching the Gospel to the people around us and to continue to persevere reaching new people and making new disciples as Jesus commissioned,* *“19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:19-20 KJV)*

2. God gives the gift of healing to his church to be used to heal the sick in order to make the message of God proclaimed to others and make them believe. *“17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” (Mark 16:17-18 KJV)* *Healing is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that God gives to His church to be used in evangelism. Healing from sicknesses are miracles of God that He used to convince sinners and bring them near to Him.*

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the death he prayed the following to God the Father, *"41 Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."* (John 11:41-42) Jesus wanted God to raise up Lazarus from the dead so that people would believe on God and believe on Jesus who was sent by God.

In other occasion in the healing event of the man that was born blind, *"1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' 3 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned,' said Jesus, 'but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.'" (John 9:1-3)* That sickness was allowed so that God in healing him will display His power in the life of that blind man that Jesus healed.

Miracles are one of the ways of God that He used to display His work and His power in the life of the people. *Therefore, we need to continue to pray and we need to continue to trust God that He will do miracles as we pray. Let us pray and lay our hands on sick people and trust God that He will do miracles and heal them and open their eyes to believe on Him and to follow Him.*

3. God ways are not our ways. The Lord here in the story of Naaman used the captive Israelites girl to proclaim the message of the salvation of God. The young girl from Israel obeyed the Lord's command and evangelized while she was in a foreign land: *"2 Now bands from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. 3 If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."* (2 Kings 5:2-3) *We should not be ashamed to testify about our faith and who we are in Christ Jesus. We should not be ashamed to tell the big and influential people about Jesus, because they are in need of Him. They need His salvation, His grace, His healing and His power in their lives. God may use any one of us and even the poor and the weak among us like this girl to proclaim the salvation of God.*

4. God would make the healing gift that He gives to the church known to others to attract them to Him, so they will be saved and ultimately they will become part of His church. When Jesus started healing the sick the news spread about him and many started to follow Him. *"23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. 24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. 25 Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him."* (Matthew 4:23-25) *As we start to lay hands on sick people, the Lord shall heal sick people and news about Him shall be spread and we will found ourselves in front of new open doors in reaching new people, groups, families and nations with the gospel of Jesus.*

5. Elisha was careful to use the gift of healing to proclaim the message and the salvation of God. He was not reluctant to use the gift of healing. Let us read how the event went on, *"4 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. 6 The 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.' 7 As 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!'" 8 When 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.' (2 Kings 5:4-8) As we read the king of Israel was irresponsible person to care for the man that was sent by God to be healed. But Elisha did his part and achieved God's will. *Be a responsible person and use the gift of God that He gave you without fear, to serve God and to serve the people that He is sending to you,* *"6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. 7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."* (2 Timothy 1:6-7 KJV)

6. Elisha acted in a right way with Naaman to give him the right message to repent and got saved. When Naaman reached Elisha, *"9 So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. 10 Elisha 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.'" (2Kings 5:9-10)* Naaman was expecting some honour and prestige from Elisha toward him. But Elisha did not do that intentionally to make Naaman humble down. Therefore Naaman reacted because of that. *"11 But 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. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?'" So he turned and went off in a rage."* (2 Kings 5:11-12) He was expecting special care and special reception. Pride was his sin and his cause of leprosy, and Elisha discerned it and handled it properly. Finally Naaman realized and was convinced to humble down before God and His servant Elisha and he got cured. *"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."* (2Kings 5:13-14) *We need to discern what the sin of the people is, so we can give the message that is suitable for them to repent and come back to Jesus. We need not to be afraid from people, instead we need to tell them and to do to them whatever God wanting from them to know and to do. This is the way how salvation will flow to others.*

Jesus, healed the servant of the Centurion who approached Jesus with humility, *"5 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. 6 'Lord,' he said, 'my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering.' 7 Jesus said to him, 'I will go and heal him.' 8 The centurion replied, 'Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."* (Matthew 8:5-9)

Jesus rewarded the centurion for his humility. Therefore, we need to be discerning how to evangelize, what message we need to give, how to speak and what to speak to different kind of people while God is healing the sick.

The more you got involved in evangelism and reaching new people the more the Lord shall teach you with the help of the Holy Spirit of how to handle the people lives and how to teach them the Word of God.

7. The miracle of God revealed that He is the only true God. Naaman after he was healed he realized that the God of Israel is the only true God: ***“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’ (2Kings 5:15) Naaman further committed himself to our God, “For your servant will never again make burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god but the LORD. 18 But may the LORD forgive your servant for this one thing: When my master enters the temple of Rimmon to bow down and he is leaning on my arm and I bow there also--when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD forgive your servant for this” (2 Kings 5:17-18) As we persevere to reach the lost, and doing our part well as we described, we will be enjoying seeing the Lord working in the life of people, and bringing new fruit from their lives.***

8. The miracle of God should not be done in exchange of money. We should not evangelism in order to get some benefits, help or privileges. Elishah made the message very clear to Naaman when he refused to take from him any gift, ***“Please accept now a gift from your servant.” 16 The prophet answered, “As surely as the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing.” And even though Naaman urged him, he refused.” (2 Kings 5:15-16) Elisha did not receive any gift because Naaman was influential and powerful man. Elisha wanted to teach him humility and wanted him to realize that Elisha was depending on God for his living and by no way the richness of the world will influence him. Certain time when we reach rich people and preach the gospel to them we might need to refrain to take gifts from them to let them humble down and to know that their riches will not influence us to compromise with them. Paul refused for a certain time to take financial support from the church at Corinth to humble them, “7 Was it a sin for me to lower myself in order to elevate you by preaching the gospel of God to you free of charge? 8 I robbed other churches by receiving support from them so as to serve you.” (2 Corinthians 11:7-8)***

9. The miracle of God should not be used as a source of income, and ministry should not be used to make money. The Lord gives the gift of healing to preach His word and to proclaim His salvation and not for taking gifts and advantage of people. Gehazi wanted to be smart and used the opportunity to become rich. He invented a story and told a lie in order to justify why he is asking for the gift from Naaman, ***“My master sent me to say, Two young men from the company of the prophets have just come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two sets of clothing.” (2Kings 5:22) What is allocated to the church is the first fruits, tithes and offerings of the disciples who are disciplined by the Word of God. Otherwise if the church today or those who serve God behaves like Gehazi then let be known to them and to that particular person who take advantage of the miracles and the work of God,***

“Naaman's leprosy will cling to you.” (2 Kings 5:27) We need to understand when God allow you to reach new people then you should not covet their riches and belongings. We should not be enticed with the worldly treasures that others have, but rather with the heavenly riches that God had promised to give us.

My Dear and Beloved: Jesus recommended the healing of Naaman by the prophet Elisha when he said, ***“27 And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed--only Naaman the Syrian.” (Luke 4:27)*** Therefore we need to abide with the principles that we instructed with God's word in this message. Further you must know that healing without emphasizing on holiness is neither evangelism nor God's love. As well as we need to understand that evangelism should be always accompanied and followed by discipleship and close follow up. The above description are meant to help us and to give us clear understanding of how to evangelize and disciple the people that God called us to reach out.

Let us stand and let us commit ourselves to God:

- Let us commit ourselves to the mission of Jesus.
- Let us put our mind and our heart in His work and ministry.
- Let us use all our talents and gifts for His glory.
- Let us focus on evangelism and on discipleship.
- Let us live in holiness and in the fear of the Lord.
- Let us delight in the treasure that God promised us in heaven.
- Let us keep the Word of God alive in our lives.
- Let us be good example to others to follow in His steps.

Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life.

Lord thank you for your word that you open my mind and make me understand clearly your will and the way you wants me to server you.

Lord forgives me the following sins _____.

I repent and renounce the followings sins and the wrong ways of life _____.

Lord I commit myself

- to the mission of Jesus.
- to put my mind and my heart in Jesus' work and ministry.
- to use all my talents and gifts for Your glory.
- to focus on evangelism and on discipleship.
- to live in holiness and in the fear of the You, Lord.
- to delight in the treasure that You promised me Lord in heaven.
- to keep the Word of God alive in my life.

- to be good example to others to follow in Your steps Lord Jesus.

Lord gives me the gift of healing to be used for Your glory alone. Lord give me boldness, strength, the good health and all my needs to go on to evangelize and make disciples Lord I commit myself to serve you and to abide with your instructions. Lord helps me to persevere in order to apply in the life of the people whom you call me to reach out and to bring the fruit that you delight to see in my life.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and sister who committed their lives to serve you. Lord protect them, and provide all their needs. Lord gives them good health and the strength needed to go on and to make disciples. Lord fills them with the Holy Spirit to go and evangelize and give them the gift of healing and other spiritual gifts needed to serve you.

Lord bless your church, add to us workers and members, Lord enable us to reach new area with the gospel and to plant new Bible studies and new congregations. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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