

Saying Yes to God

~Things That Hold Us Back~

2. Control and Pride

Lewis Smedes-

“Pride in the religious sense is the arrogant refusal to let God be God. It is to grab God’s status for oneself. In the vivid language of the Bible, pride is puffing yourself up in God’s face. Pride is turning down God’s invitation to join the dance of life as a creature in His garden and wishing instead to be the creator, independent, reliant on one’s own resources.”

“Never does pride want to pray for strength, ask for grace, plead for mercy or give thanks to God. Pride is the grand illusion, the fantasy of fantasies, the cosmic put-on. The fantasy that we can make it as little gods, it leaves us empty at the center.”



2 Kings 5:1

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 great soldier, but he had leprosy.

2 Kings 5:2-3

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

2 Kings 5:4-7

Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. “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.

The letter 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.

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 be cured of leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me?”

2 Kings 5:9-12

Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house.

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."

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. Are 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.

**a. Elisha sent a
messenger.**

**b. These were
uncomplicated
instructions, but also
humbling instructions.**







C. Naaman already
thought he had it all
figured out.

2 Kings 5:13-14

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!"

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.

Sometimes we hold so closely and tightly to our own pride and control because we worry that if we let it go, then we'll be left with nothing.

But there is nothing in your hands that God won't replace with even more of Himself. He will never leave us empty handed.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Against such things there is no law.

Legalism

Overworking

Micromanaging

People Pleasing

Refusing to ask other for help

Perfectionism

Detailed, rigid lists

Worrying over people's

perception of you

Anxiety over being out of control

Genesis 3:5

For God knows that
when you eat of it, your
eyes will be opened,
and you will be like God,
knowing good and evil.

1. We need to identify
where we struggle
with control and
pride.

2. Get to the heart of Why?

Luke 6:45

For out of the abundance
of the heart his mouth
speaks.

~Then Repent!!~

3. Accountability

Proverbs 27:17

As iron sharpens iron, so
one person sharpens
another.

4. Embrace Humbling Experiences and Acts of Service

Luke 14:11

For those who exalt themselves
will be humbled, and those who
humble themselves will be
exalted.



1. Identify where you struggle.

**2. Get to the Heart of Why and
then Repent!**

3. Accountability

**4. Embrace Humbling
Experiences and Acts of Service.**