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## A Spiritual Encouragement Message

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# Use Your Faith To Help Others

by Oscar Velazquez

When you live with integrity people listen to the suggestions you offer them for their lives. As a believer in God, you have strong influence when you talk to people's needs, no matter who they are. Almost as if you let them borrow your faith.

One time a captive little girl who was made a slave changed the life and faith of her master and won a very convenient friend to her Israelite nation:

*“Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman’s wife. She said to her mistress, “Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.” So Naaman went in and told his lord, “Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel.” And the king of Syria said, “Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.” So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, “When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy.” And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me.” But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel.” So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha’s house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, “Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage. But his servants came near and said to him, “My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, ‘Wash, and be clean?’” So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, “Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will*

*receive none.” And he urged him to take it, but he refused. Then Naaman said, “If not, please let there be given to your servant two mule loads of earth, for from now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the Lord. In this matter may the Lord pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, leaning on my arm, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, the Lord pardon your servant in this matter.” He said to him, “Go in peace.”*  
(2 Kings 5:1-19) ESV

Naaman was a highly respected commander of the Syrian enemy's army. One of the most powerful men of the world of his time, but he suffered from leprosy. One captive little girl who was forced to become his servant could not just keep silent, but she decided to use her faith to help him. Naaman with all his might and power must have already tried in vain all the best doctors from the emerging Syrian Empire. That did not stop the humble little girl from using her faith to influence and help him. But who would listen to her? The author didn't even give her a name! She was just a little girl living in a "man's world," she was separated from her family by force, her situation as a servant was the lowest position to be in, and she was a foreigner from the enemy nation of Israel. In Israel, Naaman would be unclean and separated from society because of his leprosy. In their opinion, he was just an uncircumcised, pagan and an unclean powerful enemy. Naaman showed up to Elisha's house with horses and chariots, which in his time were like war tanks. But the story tells that he was really generous and willing to pay a high price, when he was in a position to demand anything he wanted. Naaman also did not physically abuse the girl in any way, as most others would have done.

That girl was using her faith to the point of risking her life, the king of Israel's life and a devastating war against her nation and her family. None of that stopped her because she was convinced that Elisha could cure her master Naaman with the power of God Almighty. It was almost as if she let Naaman borrow her faith. In doing so, long story short, Naaman came back from the Jordan river looking like the baby model for Gerber, a new creature and a godly believer in the only living God. Pagan, ancient middle eastern people believed that certain gods were assigned to certain places (1 Kings 20:23, Jonah 1:3). So Naaman took Israelite soil back to Damascus to worship the only true God on it, in his territory. Only God the Creator could cure leprosy in an instant.

No matter who you are as a believer, God can use the smallest act of faith in a huge way! Use your faith to help others.