

# The Lakeview Lamp

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” - Psalm 119:105*

## September 9, 2007

### *Naaman – The Commander Who Obeyed God*

John M. Duvall

Many years ago, there was a commander in the Syrian army. This commander's name was Naaman. The Bible says that Naaman was a *“great and honorable man in the eyes of his master.”* Although Naaman was a *“mighty man of valor,”* he suffered from the problem of leprosy (**2 Kings 5:1-27**).

Through the course of time, Naaman heard about a prophet in Samaria who could heal his leprosy. After learning of this prophet, Naaman traveled to Samaria. In Samaria, Naaman met Elisha, a prophet of the Lord. The prophet of the Lord sent word to Naaman saying, *“Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be cleaned”* (**2 Kings 5:10**).

When Naaman heard the instructions given by the prophet of the Lord, he became angry and went away. Naaman had reasoned that the prophet would come out and call upon the name of the Lord and wave his hand over the leprosy. Naaman also reasoned that the rivers of Damascus were better than the Jordan River and that he could wash in them and be cleaned. Fortunately for Naaman, his servants advised him that he should heed the words of the prophet. As a result, Naaman went to the river Jordan and dipped seven times in the river. After dipping seven times in the river Jordan, Naaman's flesh was clean of the leprosy. Because of this great miracle, Naaman determined to never again offer *“burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the Lord”* (**2 Kings 5:17**).

The lesson to be learned from Naaman is a simple lesson. In the beginning, Naaman rejected the instructions given by Elisha because they were not the instructions he was expecting. However, Naaman changed his mind and obeyed the word of the Lord. It was only then that Naaman was cleansed. We must also note that if Naaman had only dipped 5 times in the Jordan River, then he would not have been cleansed. In order to obey the Lord, Naaman had to obey completely.

This is the lesson which people must learn today. Sadly, too many people reject plain Bible teaching because it is not what they were expecting. The Bible teaches of one body (church), one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God (**Eph. 4:4-6**). However, this truth does not fit the expectation of those who believe in many churches with many different faiths. If people would simply follow the example of Naaman by obeying the word of the Lord, then many more people would be saved today.

Just as Naaman was suffering from a physical illness, so you may be suffering from a spiritual illness. If you are dead in sin (**Romans 6**), then you need to follow the instructions of the Savior in order to be made alive and clean. Naaman's instructions were simple. Your instructions are simple. Jesus said, *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned”* (**Mark 16:16**). Please choose this day to believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God and be baptized for the remission of your sins (**Acts 2:38**). Do this and you shall be made clean.

## *Example Prayer*

Troy Nicholson

I don't remember where I got it, but here is a prayer that was sent to me that is a good example of things for which we should pray.

“Dear Lord, I thank You for this day. I thank You for my being able to see and to hear this morning. I'm blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God. You have done so much for me, and You keep on blessing me.

“I ask now for Your forgiveness. Forgive me this day for everything I have done, said, or thought that was not pleasing to you.

“Please keep me safe from all danger and harm. Help me to start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude. Let me make the best of each and every day to clear my mind so that I can hear from You. Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over.

“Continue to use me to do Your will. Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others. Keep me strong that I may help the weak. Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others.

“I pray for those who are lost and can't find their way. I pray for those who are misjudged and misunderstood. I pray for those who don't know You intimately. I pray for those who don't believe at all. I pray for all my sisters and brothers, for each and every family member in their households. I pray for peace, love, and joy in their homes that they are out of debt and all their needs are met. I pray for all to know there is no problem, circumstance, or situation greater than You. Every battle is in Your hands for You to fight.”

*“Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come to You. Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my trouble; incline Your ear to me; in the day that I call, answer me speedily.” – Psalm 102:1-2*

# **Family News**

**Quinton Coppage**'s doctor visits were rescheduled for next week.

**Elmo Ferrell** remains in room 101A at NHC and seemed to be doing better last week.

**Estelle Hayes** has an eye appointment Monday.

**Sandra Hunt** is still waiting for a date for surgery on her shoulder.

**Fran Pickens** is back home with Connie.

**Cotton Read** is having pain in his back behind his lungs.

**Laura Reed** is in room 103b at NHC for therapy.

**Robert Wray** has an eye doctor appointment Tuesday.

**Out of town, traveling, or visiting:** **Cindi Malone** (Dallas).

**New Reports from men we support:** **Chad Lynn** (WV), **Allen Malone** (Vietnam).

**Note** – If you have any news for the bulletin (out of town, sick, etc.), then please let me know. I will be printing it most weeks on Saturday night, so please get the news to me by then. Thanks! – Troy

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*"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thes 5:16-18).*