



H2Oh!

# Everyday FAITH Family Page

## Law/Gospel

When I suffer, my first inclination is to trust my strength, wealth, or reputation. This tempts me to doubt God's unequivocal word of promise.

**But, despite my doubts, God's Word is powerful and always does what it says, pointing me to Jesus, the Word made flesh, who heals my diseases and cleanses me from the sickness of my sin.**

## Bible Words

Bless the LORD . . . who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases.  
Psalm 103:2-3

## Leprosy Facts

A long-lasting bacterial infection causes leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease. Contagious, leprosy was so feared that those with leprosy were separated from their communities and forced to live alone or with others who had the affliction. Today, doctors cure leprosy with long-term doses of antibiotics. The number of chronic cases decreased to 189,000 in 2012, down from 5.2 million in the 1980s.

SOURCE: *Leprosy*, Wikipedia.com

## Cleansing H2Oh! Naaman Healed

2 Kings 5:1-14

God gave Naaman, the army commander of Israel's northern rival of Syria, many military victories, but he developed leprosy, an incurable disease. In its worst forms, leprosy killed nerves and disfigured bodies.

An Israelite slave girl told Naaman's wife that Israel's prophet Elisha could cure Naaman. His wife convinced Naaman, who asked his king for permission to visit the prophet. The king agreed and sent along large amounts of silver, gold, and clothing as thank-you gifts for Israel's king.

Jehoram, Israel's king, did not receive Naaman gladly. He couldn't heal Naaman and thought he intended to start a war. Elisha heard about the Syrian's visit and sent a messenger to tell the king to send him there.

When Naaman's group arrived, Elisha sent a messenger to tell him to wash seven times in the Jordan River to be healed, a promise delivered through physical means.

Naaman felt offended and responded angrily. Elisha didn't even meet him personally! Surely Syrian rivers were better than Israel's! Naaman tried to leave, but his servants convinced him to do as Elisha said. When he did, his flesh was restored to that of a young child. He was healed!

## Our Healing

God delivers amazing gifts to us through physical means too. We receive forgiveness of sins through weak human words, water, bread, or wine empowered by Christ and His redemptive work on the cross.

The Word of God combined with the water of Baptism heals us from sin-sickness and delivers forgiveness of sins and eternal life for Jesus' sake. Just as a Gentile received healing from the true God, Jesus offers salvation to all who believe in Him.

## Prayer

*Lord, thank You for giving faith, forgiveness, new life, and salvation to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus, our Savior. Amen.*

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