Do you feel that you need a closer and or deeper walk with God? Would you like a spiritual walk with God that is refreshing and full of life? Do you want to see God at work in your life? If so, one might ask, “What is it that is keeping you from receiving your request from God?”

Some want to blame the devil and some want to blame others, but I want to talk to you about the true hindrances that keep most of us from receiving spiritual blessings.

In the story of Naaman there are several hindrances that we can see that we need to steer clear of if we want the blessings of God to be in our lives.

I. PRECONCEIVED IDEAS WILL HINDER US FROM SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS (vv. 10-11).

A. Naaman assumed that the prophet would give him a great deal of attention—like others did (v.11).

B. Naaman assumed that Elisha would give him instant relief (v.11).

II. BITTERNESS AND RESENTMENT WILL HINDER US FROM SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS (v.11).

A. Naaman was resentful for not being treated as he thought he should be.

B. Naaman found himself on the verge of missing out on his miracle because of his own pride.

III. PRIDE AND SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL HINDER US FROM SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS (v.12).

A. Naaman wasn't being treated like he thought he should be; after all he was accustomed to being exalted.

B. Make no mistake; Naaman wanted the miracle. He just did not want to humble himself.

II Chronicles 7:14 says, "if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways...then I will hear from heaven...and will forgive their sin... and (I will) heal their land."
CONCLUSION for Part 1 or intro for part 2 (if divided)

It was to be a majestic evening. On Friday, October 18, 1991, the world-class Chicago Symphony presented the final concert in its year-long celebration of the symphony’s one hundredth year. For the first time in United States symphony history, the present conductor and two former conductors of an orchestra stood on the same stage:..... At a centenary celebration dinner before the concert, patrons had received souvenir clocks as gifts. As the pianist sat down at the piano and the conductor lifted his baton to begin Tchaikovsky’s First Piano Concerto, a great sense of drama filled Chicago’s historic Orchestra Hall. And the beauty of the music took over.

A few minutes later, however, at 9:15 PM, the music began to unravel. Out in the auditorium a little beep sounded. Then another, and another. Little beeps were sounding everywhere. The pianist and the symphony plowed ahead, but everyone was distracted and the music suffered.

Finally, after the first movement ended, Henry Fogel, the executive director of the symphony, walked on stage to explain what had happened. The manufacturer of the souvenir clocks presented at the preconcert dinner had set the alarms to go off at 9:15.

Now there was only one way to get on with the concert. Fogel asked everyone who had one of the clocks to check them in with an usher.

Trivial things have terrible power to disrupt—or even make a farce—of what is important. (Larson, 104)

It’s amazing how Naaman almost allowed several small distractions to become hindrances to receiving his miracle.

IV. UNWISE COMPARISONS CAN HINDER SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS (v.12).

A. We are always comparing what and how God is doing something somewhere else or for someone else.

B. The key to receiving is our faithfulness to what God has called us to do.

V. A CRITICAL SPIRIT WILL HINDER SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS (v.12).

A. Nothing is good enough for someone with a critical spirit.

B. For a critical person, their way is the only right way!

VI. ALLOWING OUR CIRCUMSTANCES TO BECOME TOO BIG WILL HINDER US FROM SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS (v.13).

A. As humans we are masters of making mountains out of molehills and this is what Naaman was doing (v.13A).
B. If we would attempt something difficult to obtain help, how much more should we do those things that are simple (v.13B)?

CONCLUSION

Paul Yongg Cho, Pastor of the largest Pentecostal church in the world, was asked the secret to his success. His response was simple, "I pray and I obey".

All Naaman needed to do to be healed was to obey. How many of us have missed our blessing because we did everything but obey? How can I be renewed, revived, blessed?

1. You must hear the voice of God
   Hear Him saying, "I will" to your request.

2. You must obey the voice of God in what He tells you to do.

Remember: 1. God's ways are best.
   2. God wants our obedience more than anything else.
   3. God can use anything to accomplish His purpose.

References

**6 main points came from a lecture by Peter Lord in early 1990’s in Huntsville Alabama.