

TRUST AND OBEY
Hearing God In Tough Times - 3 of 5
Pastor Harlyn Matson – 180 Church
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Proverbs 2:3-6 “If you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, ⁴ if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, ⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. ⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.”

2 Kings 5:1 “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.”

2 Kings 5:2-5 “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. ³ She said to her mistress, “Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.” ⁴ So Naaman went in and told his lord, “Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel.” ⁵ And the king of Syria said, “Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.”

Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

2 Kings 5:5-7 “So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. ⁶ 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.” ⁷ 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.”

2 Kings 5:8 “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.”

2 Kings 5:9 “So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house.”

2 Kings 5:10 “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.”

2 Kings 5:11 “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.”

2 Kings 5:13 “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?’”

2 Kings 5:14 “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.

**Do I trust the instructions, or do I
trust the One giving them?**

The only way to fully understand, is to obey

2 Kings 5:15 “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.”

2 Kings 5:16 “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.”

2 Kings 5:17 “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.”

2 Kings 5:18 “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.”¹⁹ He said to him, “Go in peace.”

LOOK IN:

1. Is there (or has there been) anything in your life that seems to take away your joy or mar an otherwise happy life? How does this story encourage or challenge you?
2. Has God ever used an unlikely source to speak to you? What did God use and what did he say to you? Is there something unlikely in your life right now that God might be trying to use to speak to you? What might that look like?
3. Have you ever reacted in anger to something that God told you to do? Why did you have this reaction? What did you end up doing? What did you learn through that experience?
4. How would you rate yourself on your ability to trust and obey God? How have you improved in this over time? What about trusting and obeying God do you find most difficult?
5. When you are seeking to hear from God, what do you find helpful? What about the process of hearing God’s voice do you find frustrating or challenging? How has this sermon/passage challenged or encouraged you?