

MAKING PROGRESS

Part 1: The Progress Mindset

STAGNANT DOES NOT SATISFY

- A. **Areas we want to progress**
 - 1. In our relationships
 - 2. In our vocations (what we do)
 - 3. In our development as individuals
 - a. Physically, emotionally
- B. **Making progress spiritually** *(2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 NLT)*
 - 1. What does spiritual progress even look like?
 - 2. Why didn't Paul mention other areas of their lives?
 - a. If you are progressing spiritually you are progressing in other areas

A MINDSET GEARED TOWARD PROGRESS *(2 Kings 5:1-8 NLT)*

- A. **Naaman was unwilling to accept leprosy**
 - 1. Something in us tells us that sickness/disease is an enemy
 - 2. Naaman did not believe leprosy was his fate
 - a. Not an "it is what it is" mentality
 - 3. Possibly his warrior background impacted him
- B. **He took hold of words that offered him a level of hope**
 - 1. No one else had any hope for him
 - 2. These words were different
 - a. Could not have had a proud attitude to listen to a servant girl
- C. **He was willing to go out of his way**
 - 1. The trip was costly and inconvenient
 - 2. Carried a level of risk
 - a. Easier to stay at home - but no progress there

LEARNING FROM NAAMAN; DEVELOPING A PROGRESS MINDSET

- A. **Be unwilling to stay where you are**
 - 1. A desire to grow/progress
 - 2. The belief that progress is possible *(Mark 9:23 NKJ)*
 - a. Tell ourselves some different stories
- B. **Go on a different diet**
 - 1. What are you absorbing into your heart and mind
 - a. Much of what we feed on is not helping us - nothing different
 - 2. God's Word absorbed into your life is vital to progress *(1 Peter 2:1-2 NKJ)*
 - a. Tells us things to stop/things hurting our progress
 - b. What to take in for growth
 - 3. Not reading for knowledge alone - reading to gain strength/life/light
 - a. Nothing else offers the hope and light that's in God's Word
- C. **Get comfortable with being outside your comfort zone**
 - 1. Making progress is seldom the easiest path *(2 Timothy 4:7 NKJ)*
 - a. Paul defined his life by fighting, racing, and staying faithful
 - 2. Don't equate outside your comfort zone with the danger zone
 - a. Outside the comfort zone is where the answers are

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 NLT

3 Dear brothers and sisters, we can't help but thank God for you, because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing. 4 We proudly tell God's other churches about your endurance and faithfulness in all the persecutions and hardships you are suffering.

2 Kings 5:1-8 NLT

5 The king of Aram had great admiration for Naaman, the commander of his army, because through him the Lord had given Aram great victories. But though Naaman was a mighty warrior, he suffered from leprosy.

2 At this time Aramean raiders had invaded the land of Israel, and among their captives was a young girl who had been given to Naaman's wife as a maid. 3 One day the girl said to her mistress, "I wish my master would go to see the prophet in Samaria. He would heal him of his leprosy."

4 So Naaman told the king what the young girl from Israel had said. 5 "Go and visit the prophet," the king of Aram told him. "I will send a letter of introduction for you to take to the king of Israel." So Naaman started out, carrying as gifts 750 pounds of silver, 150 pounds of gold, and ten sets of clothing. 6 The letter to the king of Israel said: "With this letter I present my servant Naaman. I want you to heal him of his leprosy."

7 When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes in dismay and said, "Am I God, that I can give life and take it away? Why is this man asking me to heal someone with leprosy? I can see that he's just trying to pick a fight with me."

8 But when Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes in dismay, he sent this message to him: "Why are you so upset? Send Naaman to me, and he will learn that there is a true prophet here in Israel."

Mark 9:23 NKJ

23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

1 Peter 2:1-2 NKJV

2 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

2 Timothy 4:7 NKJ

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.