

• *His servants said, “Sir, if the prophet had told you to do something difficult, you would have done it. Can’t you just wash yourself, as he said, and be cured?” So Naaman went down to the Jordan River, dipped himself seven times, as Elisha had instructed, and he was completely cured! His flesh became healthy as that of a child. (2Kings 5:13-14).*

Here is a man who made an intentional, deliberate **decision** to **humble himself** and receive the Word of God!! Naaman DID as Elisha instructed!

Naaman made the choice to cast down the ‘high place’ of his Pride that was against God’s Word. Naaman was teachable: he received and acted upon the Word of God! In that critical moment Naaman chose ‘not to lean on his own understanding!’

What a reward! Naaman received total healing from leprosy! He **turned** from the darkness of Pride to the brilliant Light of Humility, obedience, and gratitude!!

Dear Reader, you may be reading this because you desire to turn from spiritual darkness to the spiritual light of God’s **truth**. Perhaps you are aware of your offensive attitudes, but truly want freedom from spiritual darkness. **Freedom** from spiritual darkness begins when you make a firm decision to **humble yourself** under the sovereign, holy LORD.

Pride, in all of its hardhearted, sinful ways, keep us **separated** from God. When we reject God’s instructions, we become what God said of us:

- *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way. (Isaiah 53:6)*
- *All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)*

What’s the solution? God - so merciful, has a loving solution, an answer for those who turn to Him - **believe and receive the gift of His salvation through His Son: “The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:23).**

Jesus said **“I am the way, the truth, the life: no man comes unto the Father (God), but by Me”**(John 14:6). Freedom from spiritual darkness comes **only** through Jesus Christ!

Each of us must *personally* admit to God that our own wisdom/efforts are not enough to bring us out of spiritual darkness. God has provided for us a way of salvation---a reconciliation, forgiveness, and adoption for you into His family!

But you must go to God yourself, asking Him, seeking Him for help and guidance. **God LOVES you so much**, that...

- *He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)*
- *Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved! (Romans 10:13)*

Jesus Christ came to save the humble! Jesus became the sinless sacrifice, to redeem us from our iniquities, to pay the price for our sins! Jesus then arose from the dead, and is alive today, sitting at the right hand of God, praying on our behalf. He is near to all who call on Him in truth. Seek Him now!!

Here is a suggested **prayer**:

Dear God: I acknowledge that I have disobeyed you, and I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died for me, and paid the price for all my sins.

I ask You now to save me -- cleanse me by the blood of Jesus, and forgive me. I ask You to come into my life and fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Help me to turn away from sin, and to follow You. Please bring me into Your Family. Amen.

See the “Good News” article at
<https://coldwaterstoathirstysoul.wordpress.com>



Turning From Darkness

Most people desire to live in the light and knowledge of what is **true**. However, at times, **everyone** is subject to a specific darkness that is very misleading. We must guard ourselves against being ensnared by this darkness and shine God’s Light on it.

There is a key verse in the Bible that helps us overcome this darkness. But first, notice this phrase: **“...To turn them from darkness to light”** (see Acts 26:12-18). This phrase is a characteristic of those who want to belong to God! They seek to ‘awaken’ out of darkness.

In the natural realm, turning from darkness to light is to awaken from sleep. While sleeping, we have no awareness of darkness. Sleep is a natural, periodic state of rest when consciousness is suspended. When we awaken, we turn to the light.

Sometimes, upon awakening, we cringe that our state of unconsciousness is interrupted. We resent leaving our darkness. This natural response of **Turning From Darkness to Light** has a Spiritual Match!

In the spiritual realm, when we turn from the spiritual darkness of sin (the darkness of ignorance and deception), then we begin to see the spiritual Light of God’s **Truth**.

Turning from spiritual darkness to spiritual light is to **awaken** to true spiritual Light – to awaken to **the light and the knowledge of**

the Glory of God, in the face [the reality] of Jesus Christ. (2Corinthians 4:6). When we awaken to the Light, we begin to see Who the Light is: it is **Jesus Christ**:

- *Then Jesus said, **I am the Light of the World**: he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of Life.* (John 8:12)
- *Therefore He (God) says, Awake, you that are sleeping, arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you Light.* (Ephesians 5:14)

The Bible reveals that true spiritual Light is found IN Messiah [Christ Jesus]: ***If you have heard Him, and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus.*** (Ephesians 4:21)

There are many similarities between the natural processes and the spiritual, of **turning from darkness to light!!** When we are in spiritual darkness, we have no awareness of the darkness. We like the darkness, and strongly resist the spiritual light! When in spiritual darkness, we often repel true spiritual light.

As mentioned, **everyone** is, at times, subject to a specific element of darkness. We should be aware of this darkness, overcome it, and thus turn to the light!

This specific spiritual darkness -- the basis of all spiritual darkness -- is **Pride.** Pride is spiritually harmful. Pride blinds us, and keeps us in a state of darkness! Pride is a darkness that overtakes everyone at times. Like natural sleep, no one is exempt from Pride! If the darkness of Pride covers us, God's Light and Truth is withdrawn!

But can we turn from this darkness, turning to the Light?

Yes!! But first its helpful to know the many expressions of Pride: being critical, contentious, dishonest, arrogant, resentful, disrespectful – all these are very offensive characteristics! Most people **want** to

avoid offensive expressions of Pride and escape this spiritual darkness!

But is there anything that can prevent the darkness of Pride?

Yes!! Scripture tells us:

- *I say, by the grace given me, to every one among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**; but think soberly, according as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.* (Romans 12:3)

That phrase: **“Do not think more highly of yourself than you ought”** – THAT is a shining ray of God's Light! That's a huge **safe-guard** against Pride! Notice the word **‘highly’**: thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought is what God means when He says:

- *Be **Not Wise In Your Own Eyes!!** - and Lean (depend) Not On Your Own Understanding!!* (Proverbs 3:5-7).

Thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought is the heart of Pride, causing much deception, arguing, turmoil! God says:

- *"**Only by pride comes contention!**" and "**The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble!**"* (Proverbs 13:10&4:19).

Pride also causes us to ignore the great importance of God's Word [the Bible]! The Scriptures discourage such 'high' thinking:

- *"**Cast down every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God**"* (2Corinthians 10:5).

The high regard we place on our own thoughts and understanding can lead us to treat God's Word as unnecessary, keeping us in spiritual darkness! Such Pride is a risky condition!

King Saul succumbed to this dark way of thinking, and the kingdom was taken from him (see 1Samuel chapters 13&15). Sadly, King Saul never recovered from his lofty thinking! Saul's prideful thinking led him down into great spiritual darkness – into the occult.

Perhaps you yourself can see that you have a lofty, prideful regard for your own opinions. Can you see this shining ray of God's Light---to not think more highly of yourself than you ought?? Many people fail to realize their need to **"not be wise in our own eyes."** God says: **"Woe to them who are wise in their own eyes"** (Isaiah 5:21a).

This tiny ray of God's Light is a sparkling jewel of heavenly wisdom, exposing our need to humble ourselves! Maybe you can see the need to humble yourself. Perhaps it's time to recognize that your own efforts will never solve the deepest longing of your soul!

Each one of us must **personally** admit to the Almighty Creator, the LORD God, our need for Him! A wonderful example of one who humbled himself and admitted his need for God was **Naaman**, a military captain of the Syrian army. Naaman turned from the darkness of Pride, received God's Word, and recovered from his lofty way of thinking!

The prophet **Elisha** gave Naaman precise instructions for healing from leprosy. Naaman's first reaction is typical: anger!

- *'But **Naaman** was very angry, saying, Look, **I thought**, he (Elisha) will come to me, call on the name of the LORD his God, waving his hand over the place, and recover the leper. Are not Abana, Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them to be clean?' So Naaman turned away in a rage!* (2Kings 5:11-12).

At first, Naaman was in the **darkness of Pride**, refusing the Word of God. Naaman was 'in a rage!' This revealed his high opinion of himself: haughty, arrogant, leaning on his own understanding! Yet the following verses tell something wonderful!

Oh, that we all had ears to hear godly advice! Naaman's **servants**---not his fellow officers, but the **lowest** of his associates, said: