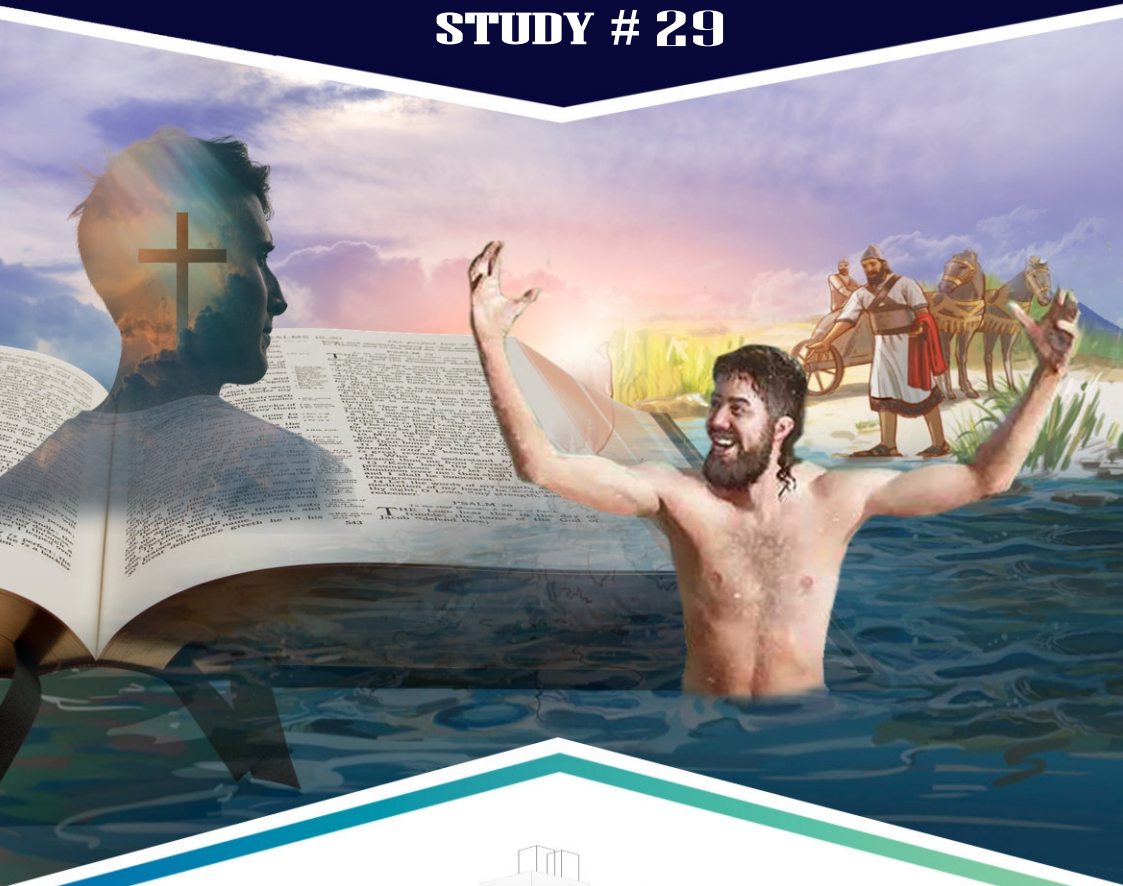


Naaman's Seven Dippings

STUDY # 29



**THE GREAT TRUTHS OF
THE BIBLE**

"Thy word is truth" ...John 17:17

THE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE

STUDY : # 29

NAAMAN'S SEVEN DIPPINGS

PLEASE NOTE: Kindly refer to your Bibles for every scripture reference and read thoroughly.

MOST SCRIPTURE PASSAGES ARE QUOTED FROM THE AUTHORISED KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)

Today we shall study a passage of scripture in the **OLD TESTAMENT** and try to understand its **SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE** for us .

Yes ! Let us now turn to the passage in -

2 Kings 5:1-14

Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the Lord had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper. And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. And she said unto her mistress, would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria ! For he would recover him of his leprosy. And one went in, and told his lord, saying, thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel. And the king of Syria

said, Go to, go and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment. And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy. And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? Wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me. And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? Let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel. So Naman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God and strike his hand over the place and recover the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage. And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? How much rather then, when he saith to thee, wash, and be clean? Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

3

Here is the scripture account of **NAAMAN** -
captain of the host of the king of Syria
(BEN-HADAD II - BC 885).

He was a mighty man of valor.



BUT.... HE HAD LEPROSY !

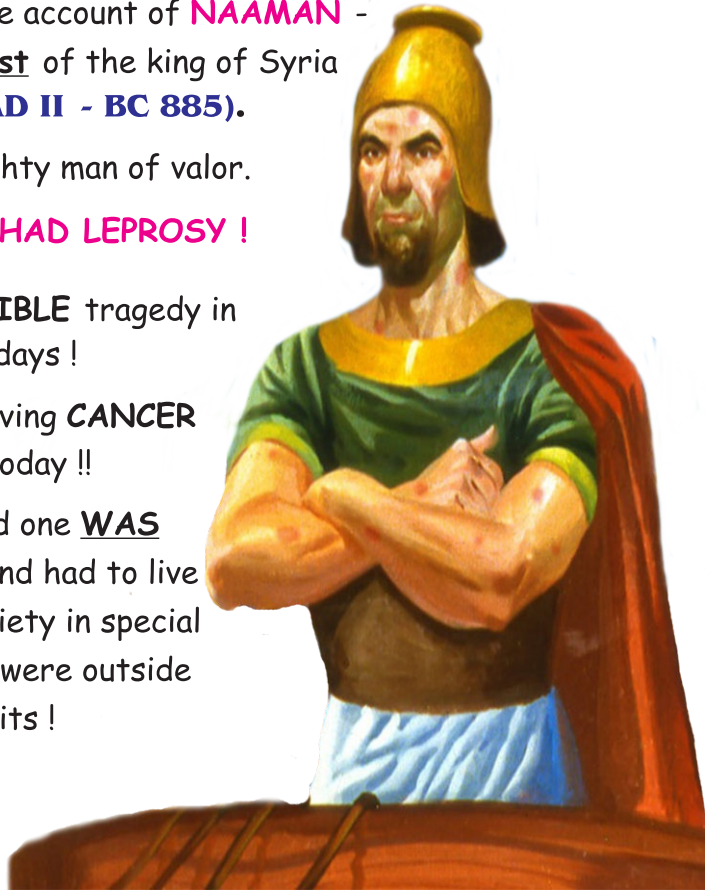
That was a **TERRIBLE** tragedy in
those days !

It is like..... having **CANCER**
or **AIDS** today !!



It had **no cure** and one **WAS**
DOOMED TO DIE and had to live
SEPARATE from society in special
leper colonies which were outside
the city limits !

Then we read
further of this
NAAMAN in -



2 Kings 5:2,3

“And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. And she said unto her mistress, would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria ! for he would recover him of his leprosy.”

Yes ! He had taken captive **A LITTLE MAID FROM ISRAEL**
who served his wife. And she one day informed Naaman's
wife of the prophet in Samaria



.....who could **HEAL** Naaman's leprosy !

**IMAGINE ! THE EFFECT OF
HEARING SUCH NEWS !**



Thus we read further of what happens next in -

2 Kings 5:4,5

“And one went in, and told his lord, saying, thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel. And the king of Syria said, Go to , go and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment.”



Naaman was **INFORMED** of this and he in turn on informing **THE KING** was sent to the King of Israel with a letter and.... he **DEPARTED** with ten talents of silver six thousand pieces of gold and ten changes of raiment and...**A CARAVAN OF SERVANTS.**

When he reached Israel and **MEETS THE KING** we read on in the record in -

2 Kings 5:6,7

And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy. And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy ? Wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.



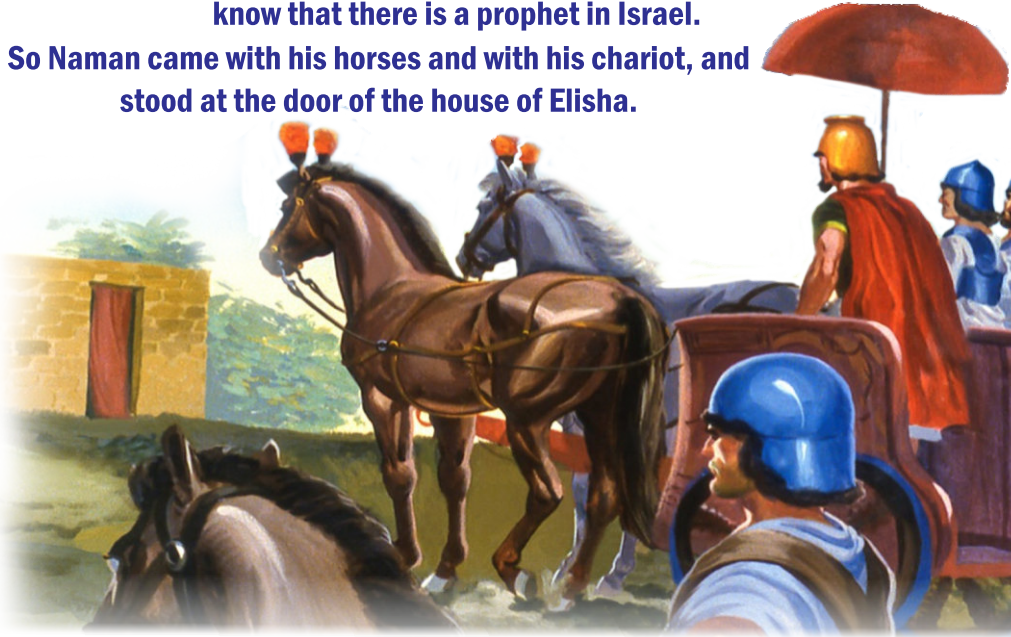
Yes ! Naaman reaches Israel and duly hands over the letter to the king of Israel **REQUESTING** for Naaman's healing - which when the king of Israel read

.....**HE TORE HIS ROBES** and accused the king of Syria of seeking a quarrel, by expecting him to do what **ONLY GOD COULD DO !**

2 Kings 5:6,7

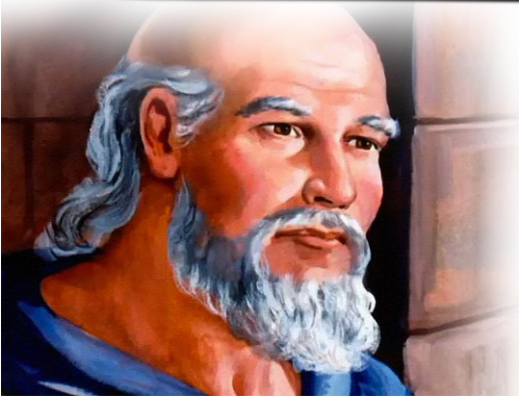
And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? Let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.

So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha.



➔ Yes! In those day it was a **TERRIBLE INSULT** for a King if he could **NOT** fulfill or grant a **REQUEST** made to him !

Yes ! THIS NEWS...of the meeting of Naaman and the king of Israel ...and the contents of the letter he brought with him spread like wildfire !



...AND IT REACHED THE EARS OF ELISHA THE PROPHET !

Yes ! Elisha, the man of God, heard the news and **SENT WORD** to the king of Israel, to send Naaman to him.

And thus Naaman with his convoy.....**SET OFF** for Elisha's house and soon arrived at Elisha's door.

Then what do we read after this. Let us read on from -
2 Kings 5:10 -12

And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God and strike his hand over the place and recover the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in rage.

Yes ! There he **WAITED** and **WAITED**..... and **WAITED** but Elisha did not come out but **sent instead a messenger** with the message -

“Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.”

But on hearing this, Naaman was **ANGRY** and furious.

He expected some respect to be shown to him

and a more dramatic way of being healed of his leprosy !!

BUT NO !





...There was only this message to wash SEVEN TIMES IN THE RIVER JORDAN.

Yes ! Another thing also made him angry !!
AND THAT WAS...

.....WHY,....THE RIVER JORDAN ??

For in Syria, **ABANA** and **PHARPAR** were more beautiful rivers with sparkling water and much much, better than the River Jordan !!

And, if the prophet wanted him to wash in a river, then why not the **SPARKLING RIVERS IN SYRIA.....**

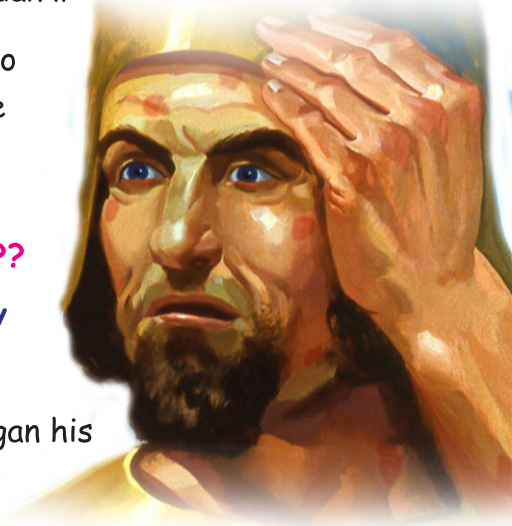


Why, in the River JORDAN ??

YES ! HE WAS VERY ANGRY AND DISAPPOINTED ?

And thus he turned away and began his journey back to Syria.

On the way back **HE HAD TO CROSS** the River Jordan.



Before the crossing he must have sat on the bank of the River Jordan for a break and **WAS STILL ANGRY** and in a rage !

Thus it is that we then read from -

2 Kings 5:13-14

“And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it ? How much rather then, when he saith to thee, wash, and be clean ? Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.”



Yes ! **SOME OF HIS SERVANTS** thus approach Naaman and address him



“My father”

This shows Naaman was a good man and... was **WELL LOVED** and **RESPECTED** by his servants.

The servants speak to the angry Naaman of the **SIMPLICITY** of the prophet's **INSTRUCTIONS** and draw attention to the fact that Naaman came



.....with the intention TO DO WHATEVER THE PROPHET WOULD TELL HIM AND AT WHATEVER THE COST !!



Yes ! Naaman began to see **REASON** and.... **THE POINT** of the matter !

Thus his servants coaxed and convinced him to listen and obey the words of the prophet.

And Naaman finally went and did as the prophet Elisha had commanded him and when he **HAD DIPPED.....THE SEVENTH TIME**, his flesh

“came again like unto the flesh of a little child”



AND.....HE WAS CLEAN !!!

IT WAS AN ABSOLUTELY ASTOUNDING MIRACLE !



But **NOTE WELL** here THE EXPERIENCE of Naaman
in the "seven dippings".

In his angry state and having been convinced by his servants



...He must have gone into the Jordan and begun his
"immersing" **PROCESS** !

Perhaps **after each** "dipping" he would have looked for changes
in his leprosy skin but would have found none.

.... This he must have experienced **SIX TIMES** !

Anyone in Naaman's place would have lost his
patience and thought it all a terrible joke !

But **NOT** Naaman ! **WHY** ?

Because He knew the **MEANING** and **VALUE** of instruction !

He himself was a captain and gave instructions to his
servants !

And he knew that all **PURPOSES** are manifest
only ...in **THE FULFILLING OF INSTRUCTIONS** !

**And thus he went down that "seventh" time and IN THE
FRACTION OF A SECOND A PHENOMENAL and
AWESOME MIRACLE TOOK PLACE.**

This brought about **A GREAT CHANGE IN NAAMAN** and
he actually turned around and returned back to
the prophet Elisha.

...**BUT THAT IS NOT PART OF OUR LESSON TODAY** !

We stop **NOW**..... to ponder on these "seven dippings" !

What is the **SIGNIFICANCE** of these **SEVEN DIPPINGS** ?



In case one were to think this was an **IMAGINARY**

INCIDENT please note that JESUS HAD ALSO MENTIONED about Naaman in -

Luke 4:27

“And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet and none of them was cleansed saving Naaman the Syrian.”

Why ?

YES ! BECAUSE OF HIS FAITH !

So what is the **SPIRITUAL LESSON** we learn from this passage of scripture ?




To get the answer we must **FIRST** understand what **LEPROSY** represents in God's word!.

We find leprosy and lepers being referred to repeatedly in the scriptures - ...both in the **OLD TESTAMENT** and in the **NEW TESTAMENT**.

Since there are so many diseases in the world why is **LEPROSY** given so much **IMPORTANCE** and **PROMINENCE** in the scriptures ? We find the answer in...the **EFFECTS** that are brought about by **LEPROSY**.

Yes ! **LEPROSY** does..... **THREE THINGS** to the one who is afflicted by it.

They are -

-  **1. DISFIGURES** the image and form of the face and body.
-  **2. DESTROYS** the system gradually.
-  **3. CAUSES LOSS** of the **SENSE** of feeling.

THE LEPER BECOMES VERY TERRIBLE TO BEHOLD AND GRADUALLYDIES OVER A PERIOD OF TIME.



WHAT IS LEPROSY A SYMBOL OR...PICTURE OF ?



Yes ! It represents **SIN** and illustrates what sin has done to "DISFIGURE"



.....the "image and likeness of God" in which man was originally made
(Genesis 1:26)

when HE WAS
WITHOUT SIN AT
ALL !



The **SIN** having spread its influence has brought "DESTRUCTION" in the MORAL, PHYSICAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL aspects of man.

Over hundreds of years **SIN** has caused the loss of FEELING and GUILT as man in the influence of sin are more or less VOID OF CONSCIENCE as they are

"blinded by the god of this world" - (2 Corinthians 4:4)



.....and are WITHOUT the Holy Spirit of God.

Yes ! Having understood that **LEPROSY** represents **SIN**

.....then the "healing" of Naaman's leprosy through **SEVEN DIPPINGS** must represent the healing of the influences of sin which is as we see here to be in.....**SEVEN STEPS** or **STAGES !!**

Yes! It is a PROCESS and..... takes TIME.

This same **SEVEN STEP PROCESS** will be necessary **EVEN** in the kingdom of God for **ALL MANKIND** in **“the common salvation” (Jude 3)**

as **ILLUSTRATED** in the... **“highway of Holiness”** in **Isaiah 35:8-10 and 65:20**

....to be **COMPLETELY AND TOTALLY RID** of the influences of sin.

Yes ! This is because of what we read about the condition of **SIN** in man in -

Psalms 51:5

“Behold , I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin my mother conceived me.”

Yes ! For **ALL** have been **“shapen in iniquity: and in sin....”**
HAVE BEEN BORN !!

But today we will **ONLY** look at these **“seven dippings”** from the point of view of the

“so great salvation” (Hebrews 2:3) of this Gospel Age -



...THE CHURCH SALVATION.

ARE THERE ANY LESSONS for the **“CHURCH”** to learn from this scripture passage today ?

Yes ! We read the answer in -

Romans 15:4

“For whatsoever things were written afore time were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”

OH YES ! "We" - THE CHURCH of this gospel age have
MANY LESSONS for our learning in the writings -
 "aforetime" -the **OLD TESTAMENT** !!

Let us now study the **SEVEN STEP PROCESS** that we now
 go through for **OUR FULL SALVATION** from sin and death
 ...as seen through these "seven dippings" -

1. THE FIRST DIPPING or STEP



The **FIRST STEP** for a **SINNER**
 when he seeks to come out of the ways of **SIN**.... is
 the exercise of **FAITH**.

Yes ! It is **FAITH** in God, His Only Begotten Son
 Jesus and the great **RANSOM** sacrifice on the
CROSS of Calvary.

➡ Yes! He must turn to **GOD** !



But one **CANNOT** approach God except through faith as we read in -

Hebrews 11:6

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him (God)”

Ah ! This Faith will be manifest **IN ACCEPTING JESUS** as “the saviour of the world” and even further..... as one's **OWN PERSONAL SAVIOUR.**

For all **APPROACHES** towards God must be made.....**ONLY THROUGH JESUS** His Son as we very clearly read in -

John 14:6/10:9

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way: no man cometh unto the father but by me.”

“.....I am the door (gate) ...”

 **IT IS SO CLEAR !!**

Yes ! Thus after the “**FIRST**” dipping....of **FAITH** the condition is still in **SIN** but the **FIRST** step has been taken **in the RIGHT direction** - of **HEALING !**

Now we come to the **SECOND** “dipping” or step -

2.THE SECOND DIPPING or STEP

The first step **LEADS** to the second “dipping” or **STEP !**



Having exercised faith upon Jesus one is introduced to the **SOURCE** of knowing about Jesus - **THE BIBLE !**

One develops the desire to know more about Jesus and thus begin to show an **INTEREST IN THE BIBLE -**

Yes ! **A THIRST FOR THE TRUTH** as we read in -

I Peter 2:2

“.....Desire (crave - NIV) the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby.”

Yes ! The “babes” in Christ must have **THE ALL CONSUMING PASSION TO STUDY THE BIBLE** as seen in **the desire** and **FOCUS** of babes at their mother's breasts when drinking milk !

Here further we see that... the truth also acts as **A WATER OF CLEANSING** as we read in -

Ephesians 5:26

“....Sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word”

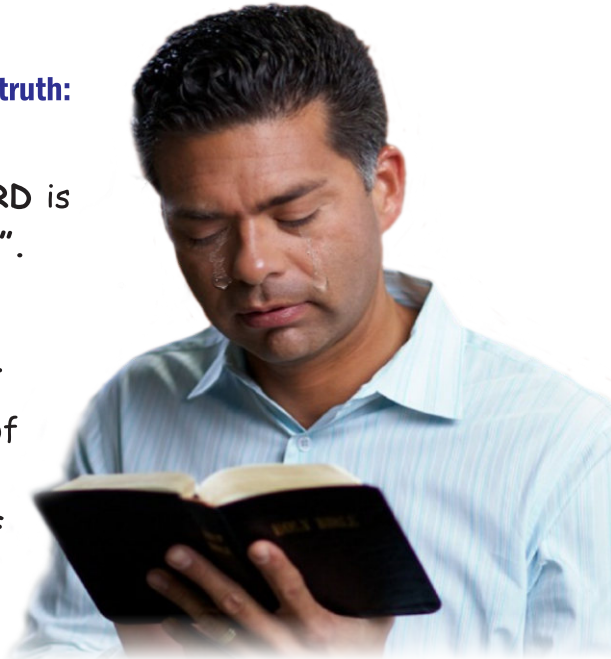
Yes ! The Bible or the “word of God” has a **CLEANSING** or “**SANCTIFYING**” effect upon the sinner as we read very clearly in -

John 17:17

**“Sanctify them through thy truth:
thy word is truth.”**

Yes ! That is why the **WORD** is
symbolized as **“WATER”**.

Just as water is used to
dissolve and cleanse **DIRT**
so too.....the **REAL DIRT** of
sin is cleansed
through.....the **WORD OF**
GOD.



The reading of the Bible draws to attention one's **SINFUL**
CONDITION and **WAYS** in....the thoughts,....words
and....deeds !!

Anyone who reads the Bible gets a clear understanding of
his/her sinful condition and is thus greatly influenced to
REFORM and **REPENT** !

Thus **REPENTANCE BEGINS** here in the heart !!

Thus the “second dipping” makes ready for the next !

3.THE THIRD DIPPING or STEP

The gradual “cleansing” and **BIBLE**
STUDYING progresses as the “babe” in
Christ seeks more and more to be



a little more like Christ - or CHRISTIAN. !

This is the stage where **ONE BEGINS PUTTING AWAY**
wicked ways and habits !!

This the work of the "Holy Spirit" within as we read in -

John 16:8

**"When he comes he will CONVICT the world of guilt in regard to sin
and righteousness and judgement." (NIV)**

This shows that it is the measure of God's Holy Spirit
(God's "calling") "**within**" that begins to convict us
and.....**OBEDIENCE** to the Spirit brings the separation or
"sacrifice" of bad things !!



Thus it is that at this stage **THE CHRISTIAN** "babe" or **BELIEVER** will say and make **TESTIMONIES** such as -



"**I was secretly a smoker** and I thought nobody knew of my habit but then when I began to read the Bible I came to know that **GOD ALWAYS KNOWS** and I decided to stop completely..."



Another will say - "**I was so crazy about seeing films** I would be always seeing the new release in the theaters on the first day itself - whatever the cost of the ticket !

But now **I DON'T HAVE THAT SAME FEELING** any more."



Another will say - "**I would speak bad language in my speech** casually and without thinking as it was common among my friends. I would think nothing of it, but **NOW** I realize how it **DISPLEASES GOD** and so **I AM CAREFUL IN MY WORDS** now..."



Yet another will say - "**I used to drink everyday.** It was a regular habit of mine to meet with my friends at the local bar everyday and spend time till late in the night. But **NOW I CAN'T SEEM TO DO THAT** anymore...."

And thus the **TESTIMONIES** of "**SACRIFICE OF THESE BAD HABITS**" will go on and on....!

This could be said to be a state of **PARTIAL CONSECRATION** to God and to righteousness - a step in the right direction !!

This "dipping" leads then to the "fourth dipping" -

4. THE FOURTH DIPPING or STEP



This "dipping" or STEP which follows is....A FULL CONSECRATION of one's whole will AND....LIFE TO DO the Lord's will.

This is understood by a deeper study of the word of God where the mere "BELIEVER" in Christ begins to understand a lot more depth to the Christian "calling" as we read in -

Philippians 1:29

"For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake."



And again a similar thought in -

I Peter 2:21

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."


Yes! Thus understanding that **BELIEVING** in Jesus is.....the **FIRST** stage of Christian development and recognizing the need to go to the **NEXT** stage and to.....become



a FOLLOWER of Jesus the Christian then experiences a TRANSFORMATION OF MIND as he beholds the words of the Master in -

Matthew 16:24

“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.”

Yes ! The meaning of these words and their SIGNIFICANCE begins to dawn on the Christian and he understands that to - “deny self” is....to DENY the spirit of this world  the SELF CENTERED life of “self will” !

Thus the Apostle Paul describes the experiences of a Christian at this stage in -

Romans 12:2

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”



Yes ! The willingness to **OBEY** and **DENY** the "spirit of this world" causes a **RENEWAL** of the mind which empties itself of "the spirit of the world" **BIT** by **BIT** and....then **INSPIRED** by God's **HOLY SPIRIT** is able to **DISCERN** -



"that good ,and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Yes ! In one word this refers to..... - **THE CROSS !**

The Christian who decides to follow Jesus is called to.....take up his cross



What does the sight of Jesus on the CROSS bring to mind ?

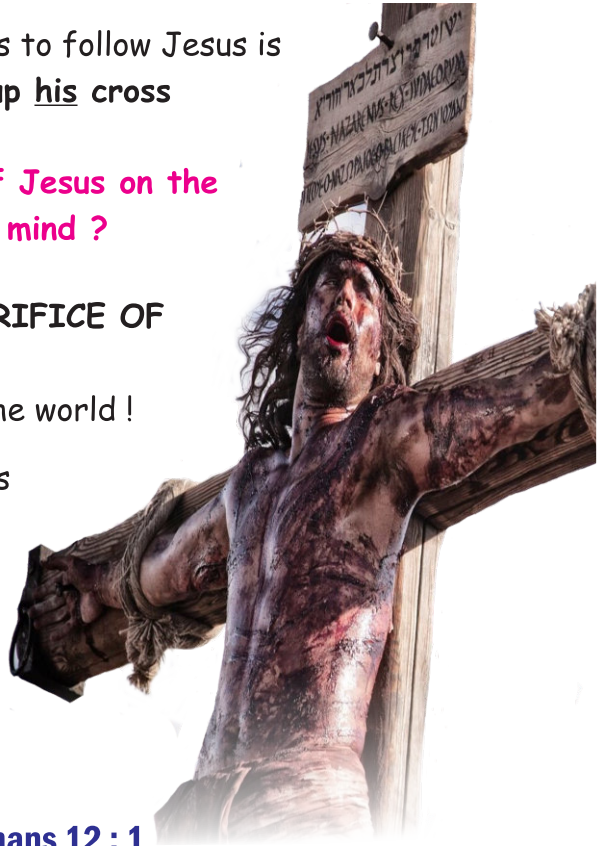
Yes ! It is His great **SACRIFICE OF HIS LIFE** to become the savior of the world !

Thus it is that His disciples are invited to follow Him and....**HIS FOOTSTEPS!**

Let us now read the words of the Apostle Paul describing this **VERY** matter in -

Romans 12 : 1

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."



These are the thoughts of.....a **FULL CONSECRATION** to do the Lord's will by the "transforming of the mind" and....the "denial of will" (self will) and thus....our "bodies" (The flesh and its interests - the human life) is presented.....as a 'living sacrifice".



NOW WHAT IS IT THAT WE CAN SACRIFICE ?



This sacrifice includes....**dreams / goals / ambitions / time / talents / wealth / health and life itself !**

Those Christians who take this step "to follow Jesus" are referred to by the Heavenly Father in a very special way as we read in -

25

Psalms 50:5

“Gather my saints unto me, those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.”

Yes ! These are....**THE REAL** “saints” **OF GOD** !

This step of **FULL CONSECRATION** is entered into by the making of a **COVENANT** with God, as was with Our Lord, Jesus too as we read in -

Hebrews 10:7

“Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written to me,) to do thy will, O God.”



Yes ! This “covenant of sacrifice of self will” unto death is beautifully



SYMBOLIZED in WATER BAPTISM.

(We studied the details of its meaning is **LESSON # 17**
- **THE CHURCH OF CHRIST - I**)

Thus this fourth “dipping” leads to the “fifth dipping”.

5. THE FIFTH DIPPING or STEP



The fifth "dipping" involves a **PRACTICAL FULFILLING**

➡of that which we vowed.

Yes ! The making of the **COVENANT** or vow with God is wonderful but **GREATER IS THE** actual **FULFILLMENT** of **THE DOING** of that **VOW** as we read in -

Psalms 116:14

"I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people."

Yes ! This should be the attitude every moment and..... everyday in the consecrated ones.

Such an **ATTITUDE** then leads to a **QUICKENING** or a growth in the **CHRISTIAN FOLLOWER** as he begins to develop in the "image of the Son" (Romans 8:29) Yes ?

Herein begins a **DEVELOPMENT PROCESS** that is described in -

II Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new".

Yes ! Such Christians who have gone on from being **BELIEVERS**

in Jesus to becoming His **FOLLOWERS** and to be "in Christ"
or.....so as to be part of the **SACRIFICING BODY OF CHRIST**
becomes what is called.....**A NEW CREATURE !!**



**Now what is this "new creature" you may want
to know ?**

It is the **MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT** of a Christian from
God's stand point as we read very clearly in -

Galatians 6:15

**"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision (A JEW) availeth anything,
nor uncircumcision (A GENTILE) but a new creature."**

Yes ! Neither being a Jew or a gentile is important but
what does matter is -



....."the new creature".

This "**new creature**" is described in -

Colossians 3:9,10

**"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with
his deeds and have put on the new man, which is renewed in
knowledge after the image of him that created him".**

Here the "new man" is a reference to.....the
NEW CREATURE.

The **NEW CREATURE** has both "the old man" and the
"new man" !!

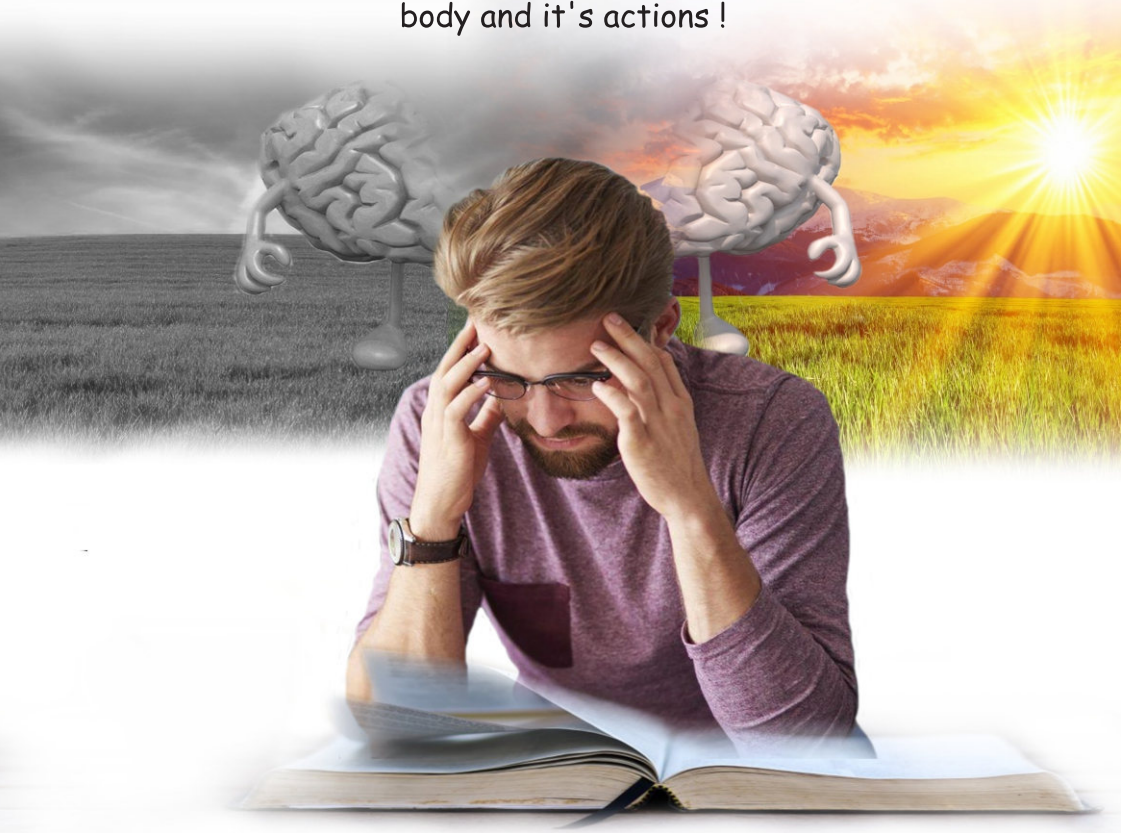
This is a reference to the **TWO MINDS** in a **FOLLOWER
OF CHRIST !**

He has both an **EARTHLY MIND** which he had possessed

from his birth and **SPIRITUAL MIND** which he received from God at his "spirit" begetting!



NOW BOTH THESE MINDS seek to **CONTROL** the body and its actions!



(THE DETAILED IN DEPTH STUDY OF THE NEW CREATURE WILL BE TAKEN UP IN CLASS # 41)

But **ONE MIND (the earthly)** is considered to be dead.....or is gradually put to death.....with all its ways, desires, behaviors and actions **BEING UNDER STRICT SURVEILLANCE** and **NOT ALLOWED FREE EXPRESSION ANYMORE.**

And the **OTHER MIND** (the **Spiritual**) is considered to be alive...and all thoughts, words and deeds are gradually made **SUBJECT** to this **SPIRITUAL MIND**.

The **DEVELOPMENT** of the **NEW SPIRITUAL MIND** is the **PRIMARY GOAL** and **OBJECTIVE** of a "**NEW CREATURE**" Christian .

Thus he must be **FAITHFUL** in **DAILY** fulfilling his **CONSECRATION VOWS** !

FAITHFULNESS in fulfilling consecration vows makes one strong to face all trials which must come as we read very clearly in -

I Peter 4:12

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you as though some strange thing happened unto you."



Yes ! Some may wonder WHY THESE TRIALS come ?



Let us read the answer from -


I Peter 1:7

“...That the TRIAL OF YOUR FAITH being much more precious than of gold that perisheth though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”

YES ! IT IS A TRIAL OF OUR FAITH !

In all our experiences of life having **KNOWN GOD** and... **HIS SON JESUS** and... **THE DIVINE PLAN** in the Word of God the only thing we can offer to God is... **OUR FAITH** **IN HIM** and that is what is

TESTED in the Christian's "walk of life".

 These "tests of faith" are through **BOTH** "bitter" and "sweet" !!

Thus it is that the **FIFTH** "dipping" leads to the **SIXTH** !

6.THE SIXTH DIPPING or STEP



This is the "dipping" or **STEP** that involves the

 ...**CULTIVATION OF THE FRUIT OF LOVE** - and the attaining of the "mark" of perfect love.

 **WHAT IS LOVE** and.....how can it be defined ?

LOVE cannot be defined along with **TWO** other things

 ...**LIGHT** and **LIFE** !!

Yes! These all have their **SOURCE** in God and God has

 ...NO BEGINNING at all !

Thus this quality of **LOVE** can best be understood by its manifestation or "**fruitage**" as we read described in -

Galatians 5:22

"But the FRUIT of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.

This "**FRUITAGE**" of love is first manifest **UNSEEN** and**IN THE MIND** of the Christian who earnestly desires .
 to develop those qualities in himself or herself !!

And, Yes! This CULTIVATION of love though is a processA GRADUAL PROCESS of growth as.....in a TREE!



First is the **SEED** which is **God's Word**.... and then the **ROOT** which is **faith**..... and then the **STEM (the works and service of the Lord)** ...and then **FLOWERS (Christian experiences)** which then finallybrings forth **FRUIT - the fruit of GOD AND CHRIST'S LOVE.**

These fruit of love and its manifestation are explained thus -

FAITH		LOVE in the battle field (of opposition and unbelief)
SELF CONTROL		LOVE in training.
GOODNESS		LOVE in action.
JOY		LOVE in exultation (rejoicing)
PEACE		LOVE in repose or rest
GENTLENESS		LOVE in society
MEEKNESS		LOVE in resignation (willingness to listen)
LONGSUFFERING		LOVE enduring patiently

Thus it is that we read of **THE CHRISTIAN AND WHAT HIS ATTITUDE SHOULD BE IN -**

Galatians 6:10

“.....Let us do good unto ALL MEN especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”



Yes! This **CAN ONLY** be out of **A HEART OF LOVE** which becomes**ESTABLISHED AND GROUNDED** in the **“NEW CREATURE”** as this **TRANSFORMATION** of **CHARACTER** takes place **WITHIN** as described in -

II Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.”

Yes! Indeed the Christian at this stage of development has a **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT** of love which is manifest in -

....“love of RIGHTEOUSNESS and hatred of INIQUITY”

....And further in LOVING the SINNER and.....
HATING the SIN !!

Yes! This UNDERSTANDING is what causes the Christian
 "new creature" at this stage of development to LOVE even
 those who OPPOSE and.....PERSECUTE him.....his ENEMIES
 !! Yes ! The Christian is now developing..... in "the image of
 the Son".

7.THE SEVENTH DIPPING or STEP



Having "dipped" in the Jordan a sixth time
 and reached THE MARK OF PERFECT LOVE

the "seventh" dipping is to "stand" or maintain that
 mark at all costs....even unto death.

This we read of very clearly in -

Ephesians 6:13

**"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be
 able to withstand in the evil day, and having done ALL, to stand."**

Yes ! The "DOING ALL" represents.....THE PREVIOUS
SIX "dippings" or STEPS and having come to the MARK of
 perfect love !

This FINAL TESTING AND TRIAL we read of again
 described in -

Matthew 24:13 / Revelation 2:10

"But he that shall endure unto the end the same be saved."

“...Be thou faithful unto death, and i will give thee a crown of life.”

Yes ! All the **GREAT PROMISES** are for enduring TILL THE END.....that is unto death !

These **TRIALS OF ENDURANCE ARE** like a **FINAL EXAMINATION** that BOTH tests and.....manifests **THE DEPTH** and **THE QUALITY OF** all the wonderful Christ like **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT** developed painstakingly over a long period of time by the Christian in his/her **LIFETIME**.



Thus it is that we read in -
James 1:4

“Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and **ENTIRE** wanting nothing.”

Yes ! It is the **WISDOM** of God that this **PATIENT**

ENDURANCE brings forth..... **PERFECT COMPLETION** !!

These are the **FINAL "GRADUATING"** experiences of a Christian that serve to **POLISH** the Christ - like character already developed and **CRYSTALLIZED** within !

It is like when a sculpture is carved out of stone, the process is....**LONG** and **PAINSTAKING** but the beauty of the work is manifested**ONLY** when the **FINAL POLISHING** is done !



.....So too it is with the Christian and his / her **CHRIST - LIKE CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT** !

AND FINALLY having "dipped" in the Jordan the "seventh" time the transformation **ACHIEVED** is as we read in -

Psalms 17:15

“As for me I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.”

Yes ! This is a picture of the Christian coming out of the Jordan AFTER the “seventh dipping” !!

This is a picture of....**THE FIRST RESURRECTION** when the Church receives “**the likeness**” of God and Jesus -



....YES ! THE DIVINE NATURE !!

**What does the words -
“....I shall be satisfied...” mean ?**



It could mean two things as we read hereunder -

- 1.** The **SATISFACTION** of “**deliverance**” from the miserably weak body of the flesh **and sin** as we read in -

Romans 7:24 - 0 wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?



- 2.** The **SATISFACTION** of the “**reward**” far beyond one's expectation for the sacrifices and sufferings of the Christian walk of life (**I John 3:2**)

FINALLY WHAT IS MEANT BY THESE “SEVEN DIPPINGS” BEING..... IN THE RIVER JORDAN ???

As we have already studied in a previous lesson (in **CLASS # 16**) **THE RIVER JORDAN REPRESENTS THE**

**COURSE OF MANKIND IN THE FIRST AND SECOND
WORLDS** when the **INHERITED SIN** and **DEATH
CONDITION** is upon **ALL** !

Thus these “seven dippings” or **SEVEN STEP PROCESS** for
a Christian in **THE GOSPEL AGE**

.....is while he is **IN** and **AMONG** that same “fallen”
condition in himself....and....the world around him -
Yes !...“THE RIVER JORDAN” !!

FINALLY the world of mankind too in **THEIR PERIOD OF
SALVATION** in the **MILLENNIAL AGE** will go through a
similar **SEVEN STEP PROCESS** as we read in -

II Kings 4:35

**“Then he returned and walked in the house to and fro; and went up,
and stretched himself upon him; and the child sneezed seven times,
and the child opened his eyes.”**

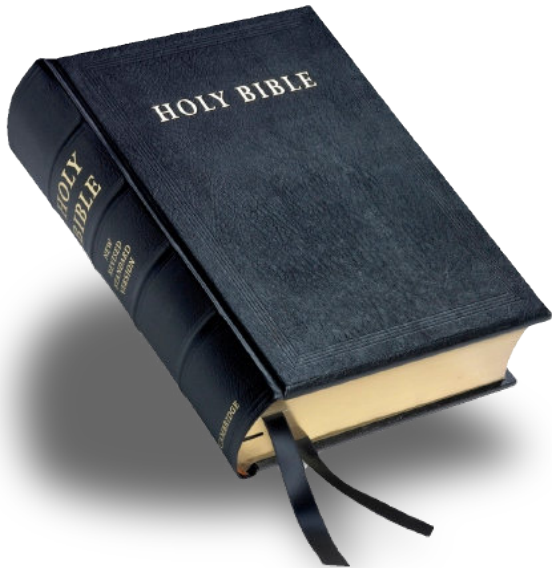
Yes ! The “child” here represents **THE WORLD OF MANKIND**
....who will have their “eyes” opened from death to life -
but only after..... **SNEEZING SEVEN TIMES**
- which represents a **SEVEN STEP PROCESS**.



BUT THAT IS ANOTHER MATTER ALTOGETHER !!

----**AMEN**----





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