

Pastor Branson ([00:13:45](#)):

Our Heavenly Father. We love you tonight. We want to thank you so much for the salvation that we have through your wonderful son and Father, amazing love. It is, Lord, we do not understand how you can love people such as us, Lord, people that disappoint you every day. People that go against what you say. And Lord, you love us unconditionally. And we're so thankful for that. Lord, just open up our hearts tonight. We pray that you just be with Pastor Brian. Just give him the words to say, give him liberty. Give him freedom. Father, give him your favor. And Father, we pray that we would understand exactly what you would have us to understand tonight. We ask these things in your name. Amen. Amen.

Rocky ([00:14:29](#)):

Somewhere along the line, you changed. You stop being you. You let people stick a finger in your face and tell you you're no good. And when things got hard, you started looking for something to blame, like a big shadow. Let me tell you something, you already know. The world ain't all sunshine and rainbows. It's a very mean and nasty place. And I don't care how tough you are, it will beat you to your knees and keep you there permanently if you let it, you, me or nobody is gonna hit as hard as life. But it ain't about how hard you hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward. How much you can take and keep moving forward. That's how winning it is done. Now, if you know what you're worth to go out and get what you're worth, but you gotta be willing to take the hits and not pointing fingers saying you ain't where you want to be because of him or her, or anybody. Cowards. Do that. And that ain't you. You're better than that.

Pastor Brian ([00:15:34](#)):

All right, let's pray. <Laugh> well, you guys know what this series of making comebacks, I've used Rocky and I just, I felt tonight was necessary for that particular quote. It's, it's one of, it's bran's. I mean, we have that on our walls and it's, it'll preach every single time. And it just you know, tonight is how much can you take? And we, we even address Sunday that God knows how much you can take. Cuz oftentimes we'll go, oh, I can't, I can't do it. I can't take much more. So I wanted to start with that to give a little bit of a oomph to it. You know what I mean? A little one, two. So with that being said, welcome, welcome to those that are here, to those that are online. You know, we're off and running in this particular series.

([00:16:19](#)):

So what am I on number four? Yeah, this is the fourth one. So I'm glad that you're here with us tonight. So yeah, the last three weeks I've quoted Rocky. I actually said last week that I wouldn't quote him anymore. And then I, I guess I lied to you. So that might be it, I think but we're gonna discuss the, the keep moving forward of that particular quote, the, the, the, the quit giving up when you get knocked down. And so we're gonna talk about that. You know, the life is gonna hit hard. We gotta be able to know how much we can take, because most of us want to give up, or most of us want to go that much further. Or even the little, just little pin pricker, we're like, nah, I can't take much more.

([00:17:00](#)):

And, you know, God is the one that cuz I, if you'd have told me two, three years ago that I'd be able to take it through that, I'd tell you, you're, you're, you're, you're lying. You know, I can't no. Go through that. But yet God knew how much I could take, and he knows the same for you as well. So, be encouraged. God wants you to keep getting up and moving towards his purpose, towards for your life. And so, yes, life hits hard. Satan hits harder, right? Yeah. Okay. And I can say every week in this series every time we meet here, at the point, I want you to take heart. God God's already won. You know, there's nothing to be afraid of. There's nothing to worry about. He's won the victory, but life gets harder. Yes. Okay? But God never is out of control.

[\(00:17:44\):](#)

He is never out of control. Even if your life is out of control, and oftentimes it is and can be, God's not like, oh me, what do I do? No, it's never that. So I've said before, we should be craving, we should be longing for desiring his word. And if we're not, we're going to miss a lot. Amen. Gonna miss a lot. And, and if we miss a lot, then what's gonna happen? We won't be living right. We won't be living. Right. And what I, I said Sunday part of that was, so we've talked, I mean, you're probably sick of it. Yes, I know you're gonna say read and apply it, but it, if it's not about applying God's word after you read it, I, I don't know what we're supposed to do. So, Sunday even said, put it into action. Put it into application.

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And so if you're not putting God's word in the application, you are just attending, you are just fellowship with friends, you know, at church. If you're not applying, if you're not making changes to your life, if you're the same person that likes to talk about me or anybody else behind my back, and you continue to do so like that, you're not changing. You are continuing on the way you want to go. And so you have to apply God's word, or we are doing nothing, doing nothing. God wants you to keep you and I to keep moving forward and to use our gifts and talents for the glory of himself, for the glory of himself. So, as I've mentioned, the series is called Making a Comeback. And we're gonna talk tonight in the fourth message. If the video didn't give you a hint Yes.

[\(00:19:08\):](#)

How much can you take in a way, like where Rocky says, how hard can you get hit and keep moving forward? How much can you take and keep getting up with Satan throwing everything he's got and he is throwing everything at this church and the people in it, right? I haven't gone a day, this will haven't gone a day period. But this let's just, let's just shrink it for a moment. I haven't gone a day this week without Satan trying to trip me up. I mean, all of you. Yeah. If, if you're one that goes, wait, I, I, I have only thing I've been tripped up by Satan this week. You might wanna check the way you're living, you know, because if you're living for God, Satan's gonna try to trip you up. If you don't, no, Satan's not, not bothering me.

[\(00:19:51\):](#)

I'm doing pretty good. There's something not being applied in your life, <laugh>. So that wasn't even in my notes. Okay? <laugh>. So, yeah. Yeah. And I even said Sunday that we might answer the question. I don't, I know I can't take much more, but God knows that you can. It's God that trust in God. So tonight's gonna actually serve as a sequel to those that were here for the first message. So this is the fourth message. So message one, this is a sequel to that message. It takes place after Naaman's comeback in Second King's chapter five. So in week one, previously when we spoke about Naaman, he had leprosy and a little unnamed servant girl recommended that he go see the prophet Elijah. And Naaman's King gave him money and all here, we'll, yes, we'll have this done. Let me load you up with all these riches.

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And then plenty wanted to use for this miracle, but it wasn't needed. So isn't that the answer, that we try to answer all the problems, eh, man, just throw money at it. That'll do it. You know, and it's not, it said, we just get, we just got more problems, really. But that's, that's, that's worldly thinking. Throw money at money at it, that'll fix it. So Naaman did not realize when he began his travel that his healing would be free of charge. You know, salvation is a free gift. And so he didn't know that yet. All he had to do was trust the prophets instructions and wash in the Jordan seven times. And like I've said to you before he probably, I mean, I know I would, the average person probably would. If someone said, here, you gotta wash seven times in this particular river.

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And you're like, this is crazy, you know, rolling your eyes. But he did it in the seventh time. He was cleared of his leprosy. Actually, he was even made better than before. Like, if he had had a pimple or something, it was gone too. So yeah, he but upon that seventh time, because he followed God's instructions to the letter through a life to the prophet, he was healed and was made better than he was before. And so, and that's where we finished in week one. Right there, he was healed. And we finished there. The, the next verses that followed sets up our story for tonight. So let's go ahead and just kind of set it up with two kings. Five, 15th or 16. Then he, meaning Naaman, bless you, by the way. So Naaman returned to the man of God, which is Elisha, he in all his company.

[\(00:22:21\):](#)

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. And so right there he's saying, I know that there's one true God. I know that this was a, I had to see it. This is a free gift of salvation. So Naaman is saved right there. He realized there was one God, and he's in Israel and he says, because of that, and here he's trying to still kind of throw his money. So except now present from your servant. And look at 16 close, cuz we're gonna recall this a bit. But he meaning Elijah said, as the Lord lives before whom I stand, I will receive none. You know, that's keep your money, keep your money. And he urged him to take it. But Elijah refused. So tonight we're gonna discuss where, what happened next with Elijah servant Gehazi.

[\(00:23:08\):](#)

So all the points are related to what this guy does, and we can learn from his story. So many of us know what it's like to lose hope. Yes, you've been hoping for something. It just didn't happen the way you wanted. You lost hope to feel like life itself has no cure. And oftentimes things seem to get start to spin outta control. I know I've been there where things that are like, this is just getting crazy. And it gets worse before they get better. Yes. Yeah. Yes. Okay, you're awake. All right, great. And then before they get better, everything about us is tested. Our hearts, our minds, our emotions, our will, all it gets tested. And then our focus tonight is on Elijah surfer Gehazi, as he makes a terrible choice in life that's gonna leave him afflicted for many years.

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So you might say one mistake in his entire life comes undone. One, not a lifetime of mistakes but one. And so we are sometimes so proud that we can think we can keep going and living outside of God's will with sin running rampant all around us, and even in our own lives. But it only takes one sin to ruin everything in your life. One sin. So how many times have you asked, if only I hadn't taken that drink? If only I haven't said that to my spouse, if only I could have kept my anger in check. Famous last words, right? If only, and so we're gonna read tonight that when Gehazi saw Elisha refused to take the money from Naaman, what happened? Greed got a hold of Gehazi. He's like, oh, I got an idea. You know, and that, and it starts so simple, but that's how it happens.

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He says, like I think I know what I'm gonna do. And the downfall before the comeback begins. And so we can learn a lot from this story. And one, one mistake is, or, or, or more in life does not disqualify us from the Lord restoring us, right? You make a mistake, one or many. You don't go, oh man, he's not gonna love me anymore. It doesn't disqualify you ever. The only thing that's gonna disqualify you is to reject God completely. We're, we're right back to, that's the only unforgivable sin. It's not suicide, it's not anything else. It's rejecting God completely. It's hearing and not applying, it's hearing and never doing right. So, yes, no. So one that one mistake or made, none of it disqualifies us from the Lord restoring us. And two, we can believe in the comeback he has ready for us.

[\(00:25:42\):](#)

If we'll listen to him, if we'll listen to him. And here, here this, hear me here. God's comeback for you might not be what you planned for. You know, you might have prayed for something and God's gotta comeback plan for you, but it might not be what you wanted. So yeah. Or when you wanted it, it's all timely. We're gonna talk about that too. So to learn how much you can take sometimes in life, we misunderstand that God uses our stumbles to show us our comeback so we can learn from Gehazi greed. Number one, we can learn from Gehazi greed. So let's continue with the story and read Second Kings five, second part of 19 to the 24. That's where we're gonna start and finish in this group. But when Naaman had gone from him, meaning gone from Elisha, a short distance, Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, the man of God said, it's like he's waving him down.

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See, my master has spared, or no, before the, oh, I'm sorry, I got ahead of myself. See, my master has spared this name in the Syrian and not accepting from his hand what he brought as the Lord lives. I will run after him and get something from him. So Gehazi followed Naaman. And when Naaman saw someone running after him, he got down from his chariot to meet him and said, is all, well, can you imagine, you know, Naaman comes up with this plot, or no, I'm sorry. Gehazi comes up with this plot and he's running after Naaman, you know, and then we get here it is all well. And he's like, yeah yes, all is well. But my master has sent me to say, there have just now come to me from the hill country of Ephraim, two young men of the sons of the prophets.

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They're made up. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of clothing. And Naaman said he pleased to accept two. So he's even offering more. He's buying right into it two talents. And he urged them and tied them two talents of silver and two bags and two changes of clothing, and laid them on two of his servants. And they carried them before Gehazi. And when he came to the hill, he took them from their hand and put them in the house. And he sent them in a way, and they departed, right? Real quick. He just came up with a plot on his own. And he took, and Damon didn't know anything was wrong, because that's what he brought in the first place. And remember, these are the examples from infant Christian to spiritual Christian. He didn't know better.

[\(00:28:01\):](#)

He had just received the Lord. He believes that there's, but then something happened and there was no reason for him to doubt. So yes, he gave, and he even gave more. He was thinking, oh, okay, I'm gonna be I'm, I'm gonna up my tithe to this guy. And so he thinks he's actually doing good. But, so for a proper attitude perspective, let's contrast chapter five, verse 16 with verse 20. So Elijah said in verse 16, as the Lord lives before whom I stand, I don't want any of your money. We just, we wanted, you know, I want you to see God's miracle. We don't want your money. I will receive none. So I will not take profit of this is what he means. Then Gehazi for contrast, Gehazi says in verse 20, as the Lord lives, I will run after him and get something from him.

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In other words, I'm gonna get some money. You know what, I'm gonna get something out of this. And so look at, look carefully here. Both of these men made their claims in the Lord's name. You're like, what? Both of them started their sentence as the Lord lives that is using the Lord. And so one of them used it in vain, and that was Gehazi. Cuz they, they both used the name, but in the same way Gehazi used it, he used the Lord's name in vain. And so here's a lesson for us using God's name and make you sound spiritual, but if you're not lined up with God's will, we're sinning. You're sinning. We're not living. If we're not living accountable to God, we are sinning. It's a lot like if we knew that what God wants us to

do and we don't do it, you know, you know, God asks you to do something and you know you're supposed to do it, then you don't do it.

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You, you can call it whatever you want, but it's sin. It's, it's sin. And so greed can get the better of all of us. All of us. There's no one immune to the sin of greed. No one's immune to the sin of greed. I don't care who you are. And Satan knows what tempts you and I, right? How does he know that? Because he actually knows your heart too. He knows, he knows. Like I said, I haven't gone a week without some of his air. All of his airs being thrown at me because he knows what'll trip me up. He knows what'll trip me. He knows what'll trip you up. And so that's why we're always deep in prayer. That's why at the point you will find all that you need, whether it's a, a, a women's Bible study, a discipleship class, a one-on-one, whatever you need, it's here.

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It's available to you. You have to be the one to reach out and grab it. Amen. And so, if you look closely at these verses Gehazi lied to get his way. I mean, he lied to Elisha and asked him he lied that Elijah had asked him to do it. He lied about the people needing help. I mean, they weren't real people. They weren't real people. He was making it up as he went along. And, and sometimes we think we can get away with things that no one sees, but God sees everything. There's, there's nothing that you've done. There's nothing that I've done that God's not like, wait, what was that <laugh> I missed? I blinked one time and I missed it. No, no, no. He sees everything. So there's nothing, there's not a thought you can get away with. There's not an action you can get away with.

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You're like, well, nobody saw that. You know, God's like, Hmm. Yeah. He sees it. It's like, so think about this. When we sin, and I want you to just think, take a moment and personalize it. Think about if you're rather, well, I, I don't sin. You're in the wrong place because everybody sends, we are not immune to any of this. So think about it personally, this way. When you sin, when we mess up and do something wrong, it's always in the presence of God. Cuz if you have the Holy Spirit, he's right there with you. So if you mess up, he's right there. He didn't miss nothing. He didn't miss others. So when you do something wrong, when you cuss someone out, I'm, I don't care if the person cuts you off or not, it's in the presence of the Lord. Right? and so there's many examples of greed leading to disaster in the Bible.

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Not that greed never led to anything good. It's all gonna lead to disaster. But you have many examples of God's word. Paul writing in first Timothy warned that a desire for wealth can be destructive. First Timothy six, nine. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, you know, a trap. If your desire is the, Ooh, I'm just gonna, that's all I want is riches, then the trap door awaits. So they fall into temptation, into the snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. You know, what, what was the movie from the eighties? Wall Street, you know, lack of a better word, greed is good. No it's not. No, it's not. That's a lie from the pit of hell. Greed is never gonna lead you to a good place. You know, my wanting that, that I can't have, you know, I think I'm gonna be better for it.

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That's nonsense. That's, Satan lying to you used to going, yeah, I think you can get away with this. So yeah, there were others. I know many have sort of like, I don't see why God would strike them dead. It wasn't that they did anything wrong. They hid their desire from it. They lied about their motivations for it. And motivations, if they're not right, can be destructive. Destructive. So don't let that little thing go. Well, you know, the, I don't see the big deal. There was a huge deal because all they had to do is say,

you know, we couldn't afford to give all of it. So we kept this part. The disciples would've said, great, but because they said they gave all their motivations for what they were trying to do was off.

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And God said, I don't think so deceiving. It was very deceiving. And then the rich young man in the book of Mark could not enter God's kingdom because all he owned all his stuff, all his miracle material belongings blinded him for his need for Jesus. You get that? If we feel that we have everything we need here on earth, why would there be a need for Jesus? Why would there ever be a need for someone to say, I see what you're talking about. There'd be no need. They wouldn't see it if you ha you're like, I have everything I need right here. There'd be no need. So that's why the, the rich young ruler was, was he just, he couldn't see it. He was blinded by all the stuff that he has. We can all be tempted, like I said, so before.

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So you need to guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Just like the verse says, God sees all He knows all. It's not a bumper sticker. I mean, we're talking about God not a, not a character in some faithful. It's, it's, we are right back to Genesis in the beginning. God created the heavens in the earth. So you gotta, you have to ask yourself on a daily basis, on a daily basis who it is you actually believe in. Because a lot of times we're, we're, we're here every week. We've never missed a Sunday. Ne never missed a Wednesday. We're here at every heart of the point. We're here at every volunteered event and yet not living the Christian life because we're, we're, we're being a de a deceit to ourselves and a deceit to others. We have got to understand that God sees all, and he knows all, and he also responds to all of it, like you said a minute ago on his timing.

[\(00:35:29\):](#)

It's his timing. And here's, here's something I know you already know, but I'm gonna say it anyway. It's never gonna be your timing. Ever, ever. It's not gonna be your timing or my timing. Cuz I don't know if you're anything like me. My timing's boom, done right. I want it now. What? I said, what? I think I blew you guys away. What type of the, the, the Sunday morning class. I think I, when I courted Queen and I said, we Christian's gonna be like, we want it all and we want it now, right? And they looked at me like, did he just quote Queen? Yes, I did. But that's, that's the, that's a great picture of how sometimes we can get, and that is not what God intended for us at all. Not at all. That's where greed can get into. I said, we're, we can all get affected by it.

[\(00:36:21\):](#)

You know, we're bombarded by ads, which is why we like streaming with no commercials. So we don't get the ads. But sometimes you can't even avoid that. And I hate, I hate, I hate commercials. I hate ads. So let's, let's move on. We must understand that God uses our stumbles to show us our comeback. And again, we're right back to, I don't want to stumble. No, none of you say, you know what, Alex, I'll take stumbling for 200. We don't choose what I, and, and I loved Alex Trebeck God rest his soul. He's a Christian. I love that. But I couldn't think of the current host, so I just said, Alex, but we don't choose the step. But we have to know that we're going to stumble. We're gonna have stuff in our lives that no one would want, you know?

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And but that's gonna happen because when you stumble, if you're living the, the, if you're living the life for God, your comeback is right around the corner. That's right. And his timing, you can just say, man, I've been in this stumbling for a long time. It's going on five years now. God still has your comeback right around the corner. So, you know, we can learn from Gehazi greed, and now we can learn from Gehazi punishment. Isn't that always? It is always too late. Like, oh, I, I learned, I learned the hard way. Right?

Well, that's, that's, that's, that's here. So second King's 5 25 to 27 says this. So he meaning Gehazi, I love, I love this. Read these verses carefully with, he went in and stood before his master. And Elijah said to him, where have you been? Gehazi? Where have you been?

[\(00:37:51\)](#):

And he said, oh, I haven't been anywhere. Your servant went nowhere. But he, but he said, but Elijah said to him, did not my heart go when the man turned from his cherry to meet you? You know what just happened there? I saw you, I saw what you're doing. Was that a time to accept money and garments, olive orchards and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male servants and female servants? The answer is no. You know, there wasn't a time to cheat someone. It's never a time to cheat someone. So verse 27, therefore, you know, you hate the therefore is, but that's what the therefore is there for <laugh>. Therefore, the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your descendants forever. Ouch. So he went out from his presence, a leper like snow. What'd I say earlier? One mistake. You know what? Nobody took this guy's money. What's the harm I'm gonna go do for myself?

Pastor Brian [\(00:38:53\)](#):

One mistake, right? What's the, you guys like the Trisha and I like at Christmas time, our favorite, one of our favorite Christmas movies is the Santa Claus two. And the one elf says, look, you made a mistake. And the one little elf goes one mistake in 900 years. You know, we quote that all the time. So I mentioned God's timing. Many times we want things before God is ready to give them. We're gonna get to that in 0.3. Or it could be this, we aren't yet ready to receive them based on our spiritual maturity, which is what we talked about in Impact 10 1. A lot of times you think church, church, let me say it this way, church is supposed to be a safe place for everyone. This is where we want the sick to come. It's supposed to be a safe place, but oftentimes it can be full a room full of spiritual immaturity.

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And so sometimes we might not, we might pray, God, I I, you know, this is what I need. Or, and God might say, I, I hear you, but you're not ready to receive it. You're not ready to see what the full blessing is meant to intend. You know, all of us can be right there. So now naysayers out there might say, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. Wait, wait a second. This guy Gehazi only got some clothes and a little bit of coin. I don't see the big deal. Well, that's how it always starts, right? Something small today, it's a candy bar. Tomorrow it's a bank, right? Elisha could see. So, so he, you might say, I don't, I don't see the big deal, but God bless Elisha and God bless mentors in your life that are walking with you. They can see the destructive road that you might be on.

[\(00:40:32\)](#):

So Elisha did, he could see he was heading down a wrong path, a wrong path that grows from one sin into another and into another, and then into another. The next thing you know, you're in your head, what's, what's the lady say in the movie? God's Not Dead. The first one. That's the only one I really remember. But a lady who was supposed to have Parkinson or, or dementia or something, and her son's right there, and she starts talking clearly for the first time. And she says, sin is like this comfortable, pleasurable room that you get in there. You're like, man, this is pretty great. And the longer you spend time there, you can't find the door. When you realize something's wrong, you can't find the way out. Isn't that how it works? You get one after another and after another, and then the next thing, you're, you're over your head.

[\(00:41:15\)](#):

Everybody's been there in one capacity or another. So many times our comeback is delayed or we don't get it all simply because it's not the right time. It could be we have stalled in our spiritual life, or we've

not matured or developed enough to handle it the way we should. My own family will tell me thank God that my dad, my mom, or even my brother, could not have gone through the dialysis trip. They're all, they're all like, we're not that. We're glad that God chose you. My mom would never say that she's, she's she wish I hadn't had to. That's from my mother's heart. But that at the same time recognizes that I could take it for whatever reason, God knew that I could take it. My brother came, I mean, his needles, it's like the biggest fear in the world. It was funny, I saw a video of him giving my ownself a shot. That was the most funniest thing I've ever seen. <Laugh>, he would tell you, but not everybody can go through it. God knows what you can take and keep moving forward. Not what you think, but what God thinks. And so we didn't know any of that. We have to find that along the comeback, along the journey. And so the question tonight is, are you growing spiritually?

[\(00:42:29\):](#)

Ask yourself in your prayer, in your quiet time, make sure you know, are you growing spiritually? You don't wanna just be growing, growing spiritually, going in the right direction. Because we can mess up a blessing when we want our own way or we want our own timing when we're like Burger King. I want it my own way. Is that Burger King? Okay? I, I wasn't sure I want it my way. And yeah, I wasn't sure. I haven't been there in three years. So but we want our own timing. We wanna take shortcuts to make something happen ourselves. Don't what have I said before? Don't get ahead of God. It's, it's, it's not a comfortable place when you think, okay, I think God, think I know what you've been asking me to do. I'll take it from here. Next thing you know, what are you doing back there?

[\(00:43:17\):](#)

God, right? It's not a comfortable place. I've been there. Promise you it is not good. Yeah, don't get ahead of God. So, as I mentioned earlier, it only takes one sin. And, and, and I've told, we've talked about this in discipleship class, look at the word sin. It's singular. It's not plural. It doesn't take sins to send you to hell. We are all born in sin. Singular. We are all bent. When we were born, we were all bent one way or another. It was, until you met Jesus personally, until the, your direction, your eternal direction changed. It was only then. But send a singular. So even it only takes one sin, even a small one. I, I love how one of the pastors I listen to will say, you know, I, I tell lies, but I'm not a liar, right? I mean, small sin, big sin don't matter.

[\(00:44:13\):](#)

There's no gage. We shouldn't be like, well, you know, I'm not like that group over there. So I think I'm pretty good. No, it's level, it's a level playing field. Sin is singular and we all do it. But it only takes one, even a small one to bring the house of cards down. Gazi, Gehazi made one bad decision and it cost him ever made a bad decision. Of course, yes, online, yes, I know you did too. Maybe a bad decision in your finances. I know I've been there. Don't roll your eyes at me or don't raise your eyebrows. But maybe it was a bad decision in your sexuality, right? Your relationships or career. And now it seems that you can't get out of the hole that you've dug because of a sinful decision. I got a friend of mine in Orlando that I keep wonderful.

[\(00:45:03\):](#)

Gosh, he's been living that way for 30 plus years. Can you imagine what's been built around one decision on sin? That when God does turn his heart, notice as I said, God will turn his heart. I'm, I'm confident because I'm praying for him. Often when God turns his heart, he has a lot to change. So think about that. If your sin just started, look, make the change now before you get any further deeper into that hole. Because there's a lot that people have to change it. And God does it all the time. I hear stories of even deeper. I'm thinking, man, I wouldn't have thought that would've happened. But God can change

anybody, right? Amen. He don't care who you are, he can change it. But bad decisions, relationships, career, finances, whatever. Any of those can cause us to give up at any time.

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And again, God knows how much you can take. God knows how much you can take. So we can learn from Gehazi story. He learned that sinful choices can lead, can change your life a lot longer than you expected. The mind can be a terrible thing if we let it wander and sin. And if we let it wander apart from God, wander apart from his word the mind will make you feel that you will always be in debt. You will always have that certain problem ahead of you that you'll never be able to get rid of it. So then you don't even try to get out of it. Right? The mind will tell you, Satan will tell you, you're never gonna get outta that debt. You know, I just don't care. I mean, with the, the first month I was in dialysis, I, I know you guys don't know this, but I'm gonna share it to you anyway.

[\(00:46:40\):](#)

Cause I want you to know how attitudes can just be with God and go, whatever they want \$294,000 from me. I'm like, okay, here's a hundred dollars a month. <Laugh>. Right? It's, it's not shaped me. It's not affected me. Not that I don't care, you know what I mean? Yeah, I'll do what I have to do. I'll do what I can. But yeah, we're okay. That was off page, so I kinda lost that <laugh>. But yes, no we'll wander. And so we don't try to get out and our minds, our minds, which is where Satan does amazing work. He does amazing work in our minds, which, what leads to our mouth. And we say dumb stuff all the time. So he will always tell you that you're gonna always be a failure. Can always be a failure.

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What, what? What'd the video say? It will, life will keep you, will beat you to your knees and keep you there if you let it. Satan is the same. He will beat you to your knees and remind you that you just need to stay down because he'll think and he'll, he'll convince you that he, he's won. But what did I tell you? Take heart. God's already won the victory. God's already won the victory. And so he will, he will convince you that forever you'll be like this. So forever you might think you can't recover from, you can't recover from past mistakes, whether abortion or divorce, or you feel you can't get past your addictions. Many will sit and stew in that kind of forever reality. And then they'll just continue that way in, in the same direction I've said before. We gotta term, we gotta repent.

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And so many will just go, I can't do it. Many feel like their mistakes are irreversible. Many will feel their mistakes are irreversible. And if the word irreversible makes it into your vocabulary, that's a big word for me. You begin to feel like there is no cure, right? The word itself irreversible. Well, well, that's, that's terrible. You know, that's not good. But we're surrounded by a community that feels like that that all the time because they, they feel like for whatever reason, they can't enter this building. And that's what our mission is, to make them feel that they can come here where they won't be judged and they'll receive the same thing that you receive the love of Jesus. They're missing out on God's plans and God's blessings. Which is why, which is why you changed the bait to catch more fish.

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More people did not, did Jesus not give us that? I'm gonna teach you meaning tho those disciples, but also you and I to catch people. And how do you catch people by being nasty to 'em? No. No. By telling their stories behind their back. No. By showing them who you are in Christ and living that way. Right? Man, you know, it's like I said Sunday, like it's so simple, right? Is it right? It's, I mean, we make it so hard because we can, we can be our own we can be our own obstacle. And here's the best part. Even though we might feel like that sometimes, God never does. God never does. God knows how to bring about a

comeback in an irreversible situation. You say, God, this is impossible. I've even been told it's irreversible. And God goes, I got nothing to do with that word.

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Nothing is irreversible to me, right? Amen. We learn, we must learn from our past mistakes and punishments to know how much we can take to keep moving forward in Jesus' name. Don't ever forget that. She says, I am moving forward. Are you moving forward? In Jesus' name. Okay. So we must understand that God uses our stumbles to show us our comeback. So number three, we can finally learn from Gehazi comeback. Now, I want you to really pay attention here cuz I know what you're waiting for and it's not there. So we're gonna skip ahead from chapter five to chapter eight, second Kings eight verse four. So this is, this is later, and I'll explain. Now, the king was talking with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, tell me all the great things that Elijah has done. Wait a minute, what am I missing?

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You're like, I don't get it. Where's the comeback? All right, we're discussing a servant who lied. I mean, and stole really, let's, let's just be honest, lied to the guy, stole what he had brought, took what wasn't his, then was punished with leprosy. And now he's got the ear of the king. Right? What, what are we missing? So the first thing is, sometimes our comeback isn't what we think it should be. I know what you're thinking. Oh man, he's gotta get cleared of his leprosy. Here we go. It's not always what you think, you know our comeback isn't what we think it should be, but it's what God wants for us. He never gave up on Gehazi, but it's not what you might have thought. It wasn't a a, a clearance of leprosy, but it was putting him back in status with the king to be able to listen to what's going on with the prophet Elijah.

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And the main point of that is that he still wants to use you. Right? It may not be, well, I'm thinking it's gonna be a cure. It's not always that, but he can use you through that. And so I'm gonna explain all that that got left out. So how does a leper who cannot legally live with the people end up elevated in front of the king? Let's find out. First you need to know that God's grace is available for all of us. You know, when he got hit with the leprosy based on that sin, and, and yes, it was bad, and Elijah saw him, I saw you do it, you know, and, and then he was cursed with Damon's leprosy that, what'd we say earlier? That doesn't ever mean you were disqualified from God's grace. Just might mean you have to learn a few things.

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And so God's grace is available to all, regardless of your past in Second King, seven, three through eight, that's not on the screen. So I, I'll get to Second King, seven in Amen. But the three through eight we learned that there were four men and they were all lepers. And one of those was Gehazi. And they had received God's protection after God caused the Syrian army to flee from the well stocked Kim stocked with things like what Gehazi took from Naaman silver clothing, servants, all this, all these things. And so God had caused the Syrian army to flee. And so these lepers didn't just sit around, be feeling sorry for themselves. And neither should you. Many times God will not amplify your life because you are not doing anything for him to amplify. You hear that if we always, for God to move first, we don't need faith.

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Activate your faith by stepping out of the boat in faith. So if you, if you go, you know, I'm just, I'm just waiting on God, he's gonna intervene any minute. Why would you ever need faith? Right? He sometimes wants you to step out and act in faith. And then you see, so I, I heard this quote once, when God tells you to move, he's not asking for a vote, right? Brian, what do you think? I don't care. You know, you're

getting outta the vote. He's not asking vote when he tells you to move. He's telling you to move, period. But let's, let's read on to show how Gehazi ultimately gets his comeback and is in the King's Court. So now we're gonna read Second King, seven, nine through 11. Then they, the four lepers said to one another, we're not doing right. There's something wrong here.

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This day is a day of good news. If we are silent and wait until the morning light punishment will overtake us kind of like a, a biblical deja vu. You know, Gazi is like, you know what? This seems real familiar to me, silver, gold, that, you know what? Let's stop for a moment. Consider, and so punish will overtake us now, therefore, come, let's go and tell the king's household. Let's voice it. Let's not conceal it. The King's house. So they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city and told them we came to the camp of the Syrians. And behold, there was no one to be seen or heard there otherwise say there was no one there. We could have taken all this stuff, but we want to tell you about it. There was no one seen or heard there nothing. But the horses tied and the donkeys tied to the tents as they, as they were.

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Then the gatekeepers called out and it was told within the King's household, right there, there's your comeback. Gazi learned his lesson. He we're gonna be tested by God, and some of us are gonna get tested and tested and retested and then tested again, and, oh yeah, test it again. So there's a lesson. We, he, he knew better this time by being in almost the same situation as before. The previous situation, I'm gonna get paid. And now it's like, wait a second, because I did that. Look at me. Right? There was a reminder right there on his skin. And so in this season of his life, and by the way, from chapters five to chapter seven, seven years have passed. You often gloss over that where you're thinking, oh man yesterday he was stealing Today he gets it, man, that's pretty quick. No, seven years went by.

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So this was not a quick answer. You know, seven years from chapter five, God retested, Gehazi in this time he passed, God will often test us in the same manner where we once failed. You know, it won't be new. It could be several tests at the same time, possibly. But if you failed a test that God sent your way, he is gonna retest you at some point, and it's gonna give you an opportunity to not do things the way you used to do them. We all commit sin, but ask yourself if you are continuing the same sins. Gehazi did not want to repeat his past and neither do you. I don't either. So if you're struggling tonight with your past and sometimes your past can really shackle you, right? Can really chain you and, and, and make you immovable to where you don't feel like you can do anything.

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So don't let your past define your future. So if you're struggling with your past, or maybe you're even struggling with your present, remember irreversible doesn't always mean irreversible in God's eyes. He has no use for the word irreversible. But if, if he did, that would mean he can't do something. And we know that to be false. So nothing is irreversible in God's eyes. And many times in life, some will never experience a comeback because they don't pass the retest or quit taking the test altogether, right? I'm not, I'm done. I'm not doing that. We can pray until we're blue in the face, but if we are not aligned with God, we will not experience a comeback. If you're not, I I, I'm, I'm, I'm, I'm, I'm telling you the truth as always, if you're not, and you o you only know where you're not lined up.

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And if you're not aligned with God's will, you won't experience a comeback. Ask yourself if you are passing the tests, keep seeking counseling without. So, yes. And then and then if you keep seeking counseling, but you're not making any changes, you'll keep getting tested. You'll keep getting, I'm tired

of taking test. We'll get it right. <Laugh> Israel, here's, here's you want contrast, Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years because they couldn't pass the test. Yep. You know, they're like, what? Test the one you've been failing for 40 years, that one. So, yeah. And, and it still happens today. You know, you could be like, I don't remember getting tested. You know, you, I'm, I'm 53, maybe that test was given to me when I was 12, and I'm still taking it. You know, may not, maybe I don't remember, but it does, it still happens today.

[\(00:58:42\):](#)

So never allow the sin of your past, hold you to a life of misery and regret, right? I i, if you do, you're not gonna see God's blessings. You're not gonna flourish. We want everyone here and everyone in the Christian life to flourish, not walk backwards and keep doing what we've just been used to doing, flourish. And God provides it to you. Everything you need is in his word for you to flourish. And that's what God wants. That's what we want. So don't, don't be held to a life of misery and regret. God is after one thing, your heart. How much can you take when you are aligned with God? You can take whatever comes your way, I promise you. And so you want to keep moving forward. But that, and like you said, that's how winning is done. That's how winning in Jesus' name is done.

[\(00:59:35\):](#)

Amen. Amen. All right, well, let's, let's, let's close in prayer. Our Father, we thank you for all that you do. Thank you for all that you've done. We, we cannot forget what you've done for us, Lord, but we're not defined by our past. We're moving on in your name. And we thank you for never giving up on us, for never abandoning us to the valley. You're, you're walking in with us through the valley. You're are walking with us through our mistakes through our mess-ups, Lord. And you're moving us to victory. You're moving us to a comeback. But if we can't see past our own sin, we will never get this. So, Lord, I ask you for those that are here, for those that are online, for the community that were surrounded by, they haven't yet seen your miracles, Lord, I just ask you, open up their hearts and their minds and bring them here one way or another, Lord, get them into your home, to your house, and to be able to, to grow spiritually.

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Lord, I thank you for all that you're doing at the point and all that you will continue to do. And I just ask you to bless us tonight, bless those that are online, and I ask all these passionately in Jesus name. Amen. All right. Woo. Okay. I can breathe. Well you guys, I'll see you. Let's see. There's no basketball Saturday, but I'll, I'll be here for the first few hours of the day. We got deacons meeting at eight new members. So if you, if you were signed up, if you are in, or if you didn't sign up and you have not yet become a member, that's gonna be at nine o'clock this Saturday morning in in the fellowship hall. If not for that, we'll see you Sunday morning at nine 30.