

Your God is Too Successful

Rich Nathan

October 10-11, 2015

Your God Is Too...Series

2 Kings 5.1-15

How many of you are familiar with this man?

Photo of Donald Trump (please don't identify the photo)

Of course, that is Donald Trump, who has promised to take the United States' brand and make it great again. Donald Trump is known for naming his companies after him, so there

- Trump Airlines
- Trump Vodka
- Trump Casinos
- Trump: The Game
- Trump Magazine
- Trump Steaks
- Go Trump.com
- Trump University
- Trump Mortgage
- Trump Search Engine

All of those companies went out of business or went bankrupt. And then there are his successful companies:

- Trump Towers
- Trump Place
- The Apprentice
- The Trump International Tower in Chicago

How many of you are familiar with this man?

Photo of Norman Borlaug (please don't identify the photos)

This is Norman Borlaug, who is the Father of the Green Revolution and is called the man who saved a billion lives. Norman Borlaug won the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of

Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal. What made Norman Borlaug so great is that as a plant pathologist and geneticist, Borlaug introduced high-yielding varieties of wheat and other grains to Mexico to Pakistan to India to South America and to Africa. He turned nations like India and Pakistan, who had regularly experience famine in the past, into exporters of grain. The Green Revolution that he fathered has been said to have saved a billion people from starvation. How many of us would recognize his name or contribution to the world much less his photo?

How many of you recognize this man?

Photo of John Kennedy (please don't identify the photo)

He was the young, handsome President who was tragically assassinated on November 22, 1963. Hundreds of millions of people around the world watched his funeral on TV. On the same day that President Kennedy was assassinated another man died. How many of you recognize this man?

Photo of CS Lewis (please don't identify the photo)

CS Lewis was one of the intellectual giants of the 20th century and arguably one of the 2-3 most influential Christians of the past 100 years. He was a brilliant author who wrote in almost every literary genre imaginable. He wrote fantasies, science fiction, philosophy, essays, poems, literary criticism, and autobiographies. His Narnia Chronicles alone have sold over 100 million copies. He was hugely popular as a teacher. He taught at Oxford and his lectures on medieval and renaissance literature were standing room only. Students were sitting in the window sills to listen to Lewis. At his funeral there were maybe a couple dozen folks present including his stepsons, Tolkien, the author of The Lord of the Rings Trilogy, and a few other friends. Lewis' brother was home drunk and in bed.

Let me show you one other pair of people. Do you know who this young woman is?

Photo of Kylie Jenner (please don't identify the photo)

It is Kylie Jenner, who is one of the Kardashians. Kylie recently turned 18 and the gossip columns said that her sisters attended her party showing as much skin as possible. But she showed them up and arrived in a platinum blonde wig, wearing a slinky dress. But the topper of the evening was her boyfriend, Tyga, who gave her a \$320,000 white Ferrari as a birthday gift for Kylie's 18th birthday.

Photo of Kylie Jenner's White Ferrari

At the same time that Kylie Jenner was celebrating her 18th birthday, there was another young woman who also turned 18. Do you know who this is?

Photo of Malala Yousafzai (please don't identify this photo)

You may have heard of Malala Yousafzai. She is the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in history. She survived a gunshot to her face by the Taliban who tried to murder her on her school bus when she was just 14 because she was advocating for girls getting an education in Pakistan. To mark her 18th birthday, she did not get a white Ferrari from her boyfriend named Tyga. Malala opened a girls' school in Lebanon near the Syrian Border.

Photo of Girls' School in Lebanon near the Syrian Border

Is it not the case that we often trade the significant for the spectacular? We overlook the lasting for the latest and the loudest. We miss the substantial and, instead, opt for the self-promoting and the successful. And in our media, marketing, sound-bite culture we do the same thing regarding God. Who is the biggest Christian celebrity? How many followers does the Pope have on his Twitter account? What's the fastest growing church? Who has smoke machines and a light show?

I've been doing a series titled Your God is Too... I've talked about all the distorted, reduced views that we have of God that keep us from really experiencing God. These reduced and distorted views of God that keep us from enjoying God, loving God and worshipping God. We're going to find in the Biblical story that we are looking at today that even when we know our need is God, we relate to God the way we relate to everyone and everything else in the world. We look for the glitz and the glamour, the great and the grand.

How might you connect with God? How might you experience God, if you really wanted to? I've titled today's talk, Your God is Too Successful. Let's pray.

2 Kings 5:1–15 (NIV)

5 Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

2 Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. 3 She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

4 Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. 5 "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. 6 The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

7 As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"

8 When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: “Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.” 9 So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha’s house. 10 Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, “Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.”

11 But Naaman went away angry and said, “I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn’t I wash in them and be cleansed?” So he turned and went off in a rage.

13 Naaman’s servants went to him and said, “My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, ‘Wash and be cleansed!’” 14 So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

15 Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant.”

We need to understand the background to the story and how much hatred and enmity there was between ancient Syria and Israel. Not much has changed over the last 2800 years. But Naaman was from Syria. The nation of Syria was called Aram in those days. And the notion of a Syrian General going to Israel for medical treatment would be like the Iranian Ayatollah going to Benjamin Netanyahu for help.

What is it that brought Naaman to Israel? As a foreigner he is trying to connect with Israel’s God. Naaman was someone who was far away from God, who may not have given the God of Israel a second thought in his life until he experienced a need.

Who is Naaman? Naaman is a great man.

2 Kings 5:1 (NIV)

5 Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

He was a top General. Naaman enjoyed a great reputation not only with the king and everyone else, but the text speaks about him being valiant. That means he was a person of great skill perhaps not only in battle, but in life. He was successful. He had the Golden Touch – everything he did worked! He was a man of great wealth.

Here is the thing about Naaman, who wants to connect with God. He exemplifies the myth that

To succeed you must have no needs

He was a man who had every base covered. He was the embodiment of our understanding of success. The successful are operating on all 8 cylinders – financially, they are incredibly well-off, physically, they are in great shape, relationally, they have great families, all their kids are doing well, they enjoy great romance, their Facebook page has photos of the family scuba-diving off of the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. There they are, playfully having a snowball fight in Vail during one of their ski vacations. Vocationally, they are on top of the world. They have a job that they love. They are the people with no needs – at least no obvious needs.

There are lots of Naamans in our city. Some of them occasionally slip into the back of the balcony at Vineyard Columbus – heads of companies, Ohio State athletes and coaches, politicians. But here is the thing about the Naamans of the world – no matter how carefully you arrange your life, how successful you are, there is always something that is threatening your carefully constructed world. Here is what we read in v. 1:

2 Kings 5:1 (NIV)

5 Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy. (NIV)

No matter how you try to secure your life in this world with all your great planning and financial counsel, legal counsel, and your Fitbit so that you get at least 10,000 steps in a day, and your food purchases only from Whole Foods, of course, where you exclusively buy non-GMO vegetables, and the chicken that you buy is actually named and you have a picture of him with his family; no matter how carefully you arrange your life, the story of Naaman tells us that there is always something in this world that will ruin it. He had everything going for him, BUT he had leprosy.

Leprosy in the ancient world was viewed the way we used to view a diagnosis of AIDS or a diagnosis of Cancer. It was a death sentence. It would isolate you from the rest of the public because people were afraid of catching this disease. It would disfigure you. Naaman had everything in the world, BUT he had leprosy.

The story of Naaman tells us that it doesn't matter how smart and talented and forward-thinking planned out we are, in this broken world there is always something that will ruin our success. We have everything, BUT we have a child, who gets addicted to drugs, or we have a child with a developmental disability – everything but; or a marriage that's failing, or our business is failing.

We've got the world by the tail. Everything is going great out there, but there is a problem that's internal to us like depression, or an addiction, or a health scare, or as is often the case with the successful, an experience of inner emptiness where you look out at life and say, "Is that all there is?"

I was reading Stephen Covey's statement in his book titled 7 Habits of Highly Effective People where he writes:

You can climb the ladder of success only to realize that the ladder is leaning against the wrong wall.

I've talked with so many people over the years who have been physicians or attorneys or executives or college professors who spent their lives climbing the ladder of success. They have great six-figure salaries. Some of them have had seven-figure salaries. They have the position. They have the degrees. They have the toys. But they've come to the place in their lives where they've said, "Is that all there is? Something is missing."

I've discovered something about the Naamans of the world. You don't see that many Naamans with a vital, flourishing relationship with God. You don't see many Naamans who have a deep experience of God, at least nothing very current. Yes, there is the occasional Hollywood celebrity or rock star, who is connected to a church. But they are not typically the A-Listers. There are some really successful business people, who are in church, but not usually the billionaires, the real movers and shakers. There are scientists and academics, but not usually the college presidents or the Nobel Prize winners. The same is true with the top athletes and politicians except during an election year. Then every politician is in church.

What keeps all of us from really experiencing God, feeling more of his presence in our lives, is the illusion of self-sufficiency. It is not just teenagers who say, "Don't tell me; I know what I'm doing. I don't need to listen to you. I can make great decisions on my own." It is the Naaman in all of us whether we're 2-years old or 22, or 42, or 72. The Naaman in all of us is screaming:

I can do this by myself!

The myth is to succeed you must have no needs. The truth is:

To succeed you must acknowledge your needs

Think about this with me. What keeps people from meeting God in the first place? What keeps an individual from being saved? It is not our sin that keeps us from having a relationship with Christ. Christ came to save sinners. It is not the amount that we've sinned that keeps us from being saved, or the kind of sin we've sinned that keeps us away from Christ. Christ died for all sin and all sinners – big sinners, little sinners, people who commit respectable sins like vanity and greed and pride, and people who commit unrespectable sins like drunkenness, robbery and adultery. What keeps people from being saved by Christ is only ever one thing: a refusal to acknowledge our need for Christ.

John Gerstner, a Christian theologian, once said the only way to become a Christian is this:

All you need is need. All you need is nothing. But most people won't acknowledge they have need and they have nothing.

The person who will not confess that they need Jesus Christ will never be saved. If we refuse to admit our weakness, we will never experience the power of his salvation. Jesus said this.

Mark 2:17 (NIV)

17 ... Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

We have to say, "Lord, I am weak; I need you." What keeps people from being set free from addictions? It is not the extent of the addiction. It is not the type of the addiction. What keeps people in bondage to addiction is the refusal to admit that I have a problem. It is the refusal to acknowledge weakness. Therapists call this denial. I'm not an alcoholic. I haven't had a drink in a week. I don't drink as much as he does. I'm not falling down drunk. I can quit anytime I want. If you were in my shoes, you would drink, too. If you had to experience what I've experienced growing up in my home, you wouldn't be criticizing my drinking.

The first step in every 12-step group – AA, Narcotics Anonymous, Overeaters Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, the 12-step group for pornography addicts – is this:

We admit we are powerless over [alcohol, prescription drugs, overeating, gambling, spending, pornography use, anger] and that our lives have become unmanageable.

The program we have here that meets every Friday night at our Cooper Road Campus is called Celebrate Recovery. It's all about people gathering together and admitting, "I'm weak." We will not see God's power break addictions in our lives until we confess weakness.

And you know this acknowledgement of need, this confession of weakness, this stripping of the illusion of self-sufficiency has to happen over and over again in our lives. We get it for a while. We hear the Gospel message, "Just come to Christ as you are." Come to Christ with your need; the only thing you need to come to Christ is your need. The only thing need is nothing. You've got to admit you've got nothing and you need him.

We get it for a while, "Yes, I need Christ. I can't do life the way I've been doing it. I need God in my life. I need to surrender myself to him." But once we get on our feet and with our pride we say, "Thanks, God, I'll take it from here."

In this story, Naaman has to have his pride humbled over and over again. And the Naaman in us has to be humbled over and over and over again, day after day, year after year. The illusion of self-sufficiency grows in us and we lose our touch with God. To come to God you have to bow

low. But even when we're willing to acknowledge our need, here is the second myth that keeps us from experiencing God or connecting to him. It is the myth that says:

To succeed you must go to the successful

Naaman hears from his wife, who heard from a young Jewish slave girl that there was someone in Israel who could cure his leprosy. What does he do? He does what all of us do, he goes to the top.

2 Kings 5:4-7 (NIV)

4 Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. 5 "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. 6 The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

7 As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"

How are we going to solve our problems? We go to the top. We go to the top doctor, the world famous psychiatrist, the brilliant economist. How rare it is to find someone in government or academia who has the humility to say what the King of Israel says in v. 7:

2 Kings 5:7 (NIV)

7 As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life?"

During the election season every politician is required to pretend that they are omni-competent, that they are omniscient; that they are omnipotent, that they are like God. Elect me and I will bring peace to the Middle East. Fix the problem of gun violence? Let me at it. 1-2-3...with my plan there won't be any more gun violence in America. I will heal the economy. I will get everyone great paying jobs even those who have no skills and who have dropped out of school. I will rebuild American on Day 1.

Can you imagine that if during one of the Presidential debates when the interviewer asked, "How would you bring peace to the Middle East," one of the candidates threw up their hands and said, echoing the King of Israel, and answered, "Am I God? I have no idea! This has been going on for 2800 years. Only God can fix this!" No one would vote for that person. It would be scandalous because we want to elect God, or at least someone who pretends to be God.

And even when we finally say the politicians and therapists and scientists and top people can't really give me what I need, they can't give the world what it needs, these folks don't have all the answers, and maybe I will try church. The truth is:

To succeed you must go to the people of God

Many of us try church the way Naaman did. We look around and ask, “Is there anyone here who is as successful as me? If I’m going to go to church, I want to be in a church with all the beautiful people. These folks look a little overweight. They are not super well-dressed.”

CS Lewis, the English author who I mentioned at the beginning of this talk, came to Christ after a long season of atheism. He was something of an intellectual snob. I think he spoke autobiographically in his famous Screwtape Letters which is a wonderful book in which a senior devil instructs a junior devil in the art of temptation. In this one letter the senior devil said to the junior devil: Remember when your particular patient goes to church have him look at all the people around him. Don’t let him look up at God or focus his attention on God. Have him focus on the people around him.

When he gets to the pew and looks around him he sees just that selection of neighbors whom he tried to avoid. You want to lean pretty heavily on those neighbors. Make his mind flit to and fro between an expression like “the Body of Christ,” and the actual faces in the next pew...provided that any of those neighbors sing out of tune, or have boots that squeak, or double chins, or odd clothes, the patient will quite easily believe that their religion must therefore somehow be ridiculous.

The Screwtape Letters goes on and the senior devil writes:

You mention casually in your last letter that the patient has continued to attend one church, and only one, since he was converted, and that he is not wholly pleased with it. May I ask what you are about? Why have I no report on the causes of his faithfulness to the parish church? Do you realize that unless it is due to indifference it is a very bad thing? Surely you know that if a man can’t be cured of church going, the next best thing is to send him all over the neighborhood looking for the church that “suits him” until he becomes a taster or connoisseur of churches.

Let’s say we get to the place of acknowledging our need. We’re humble enough to say, “You know, I’m not self-sufficient. Despite all my plans and all my strategies, I’ve got this need in my life.” Let’s say we also get to the place of saying, “I’m not going to have this need entirely met by the top people. I think the need in my life, or the need in my family will only be met in church. My unhappiness, my inner-emptiness, my dissatisfaction with life, my loneliness, my guilt, my need for forgiveness, my wounds from the past, my marriage, my child, my loved ones, my health issues are not going to be fixed by the experts. I need what only God can give me. OK, I’m going to go to church and I’m not going to just look at the faces in the pew and see how beautiful they are.” We still go about trying to connect with God in all the wrong ways. We’re so much like Naaman.

Naaman thinks: OK to succeed at this thing with God, I need to achieve.

The myth: To succeed you must achieve

Naaman says: I'll get me some religion and I'm going to succeed at religion the way I've succeeded in all of life up until now. I will earn God's blessing. I'll get an A in God's classroom. I will be the star employee in God's company. I will out-perform everyone else. If I'm going to get religion, I going to get an A in religion.

2 Kings 5:9–11 (NIV)

9 So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house.

10 Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

11 But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy.

Literally, it says, "I thought he would surely come out to one like me..." Someone with my importance; I am expecting that the man of God will at least get off his phone, come of his office, greet me and personally pray for me. How will that healing come about? He expects that healing is going to come about by some great ritual.

2 Kings 5:11

But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy.

To experience God, we probably need some fancy religious ritual, with incense and oil, maybe with prayers in Hebrew and Latin in order to see someone healed. We probably need to go to a special place. Verse 12:

2 Kings 5:12

Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

There is a wonderful contrast going on between the great rivers of Damascus and the muddy little stream of the Jordan River. Elisha essentially said, "Naaman, go take a dip in the Olentangy." Naaman's response: I can understand the Nile, the Mississippi, the Danube...but, the Olentangy? See, there is no qualifications, no pre-requisites regarding what you say, where you are, whose around you, or what rituals you perform – in order to personally experience God. My wife and I went to Italy a few years ago and we visited a famous church there – St. Maria in Trastevere. It is a beautiful church that is actually the oldest in Rome. It goes back to the 3rd century when

Christians were still being persecuted by the Roman Empire. There was a statue in this beautiful old church. Candles were lit around it. Attached to the statue there were thousands of little slips of paper containing people's prayers stuffed into every nook and cranny of this statue of the Virgin Mary. As I looked at all of these papers shoved into this statue's hands, under her arms, by her feet, surrounding her, this pile of paper, I had two thoughts immediately. The first was a feeling of great compassion for the people who wrote those slips of paper. I thought how desperate we human beings are for a touch from God. How desperate we are to experience God, to feel God's presence, to have God answer our prayers. Thousands of people came through and were just expressing need in the way they knew to express need.

How desperate all of us are for God to go to work on our behalf.

And the second thought I had was: oh, how sad it is that folks think that they need to go to this special place and pray a special prayer, and write their prayer requests on a little slip and put it into this statue's hand in order to get the touch they need from God. You don't need to fly across the country to the location where God is healing. God is here in Columbus. If you pray for someone, you don't need to think of every Bible verse that comes to your mind. You don't have to pray great lengthy prayers.

We don't need to get an A in religion.

What was the tipping point for Naaman, what was the small thing that he did that created this great effect of healing in his life? Notice the contrast in verse 13:

2 Kings 5:13-14

Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!" 14 So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

Naaman, you don't have to do some great thing. You don't have to go to a great place. You don't have to go to the great healer.

To succeed you must receive

You must receive Christ and rely on Christ's achievement. It is so appropriate that I preach this message on a day where at most of our campuses we're doing a baptism and dozens of dozens of people are dipping in the waters of baptism the way Naaman was told to dip in the Jordan River. How do we succeed with God? Here is what Naaman was told. It's simple. It's not complicated or full of rituals and great prayers and great people and great shows and great achievements and great promises. Just wash.

You simply need to wash. Anyone can do that – a child, a teenager, an elderly person, someone with developmental disabilities. It doesn't matter what your background is. Religiously, you can be a Naaman, far from God. You can be a Jew or a Gentile, American or immigrant – just wash. Baptism is such a great picture of what we're reading here because baptism is not something we do to ourselves. Baptism is not something we achieve. Baptism is something that is done to us. We don't clean ourselves up the by washing from our sin that baptism signifies. It is done to us.

And it is not the water that matters. For Naaman it wasn't the Jordan River that mattered. And it is not the water of baptism that we have in church that matters. It is what the water points to. Taking a bath will wash our bodies, but a bath won't wash our souls. It's what baptism points to that washes our souls. When a person chooses to be baptized they're saying, "I've laid hold of, by faith, the meaning of baptism. I know that if I'm really going to be washed of my sins, if I'm going to be forgiven, if I'm going to be saved, it is not going to happen because of my greatness, or my success in life, or because I got an A in religion. I'm not going to connect with God the way I've gone about everything else in life, pushing myself forward, working harder. I'm going to connect with God the way everyone else must connect with God – by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone."

There is no difference. Paul writes in Romans 3:23:

Romans 3:23 (NIV)

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Everyone who was baptized today – the child, the adult, the unemployed, the addict, the Naamans – it is the same thing for everyone. Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

I've had lots of conversations with people over the years and when I tell them that salvation is not something you can achieve, that a personal relationship with God is given to us as a gift of grace, people often react and say, "That's just too easy. You're telling me that there is nothing I need to do?" The answer is always, "No, there is nothing you need to do. All you need is to admit your need. You have to admit that you are far from God. You can only be saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. If you try to work for it, if you try to earn it, if you try to get real religious, you will miss it."

That's what Naaman's servants had to say to him in v. 13:

2 Kings 5:13 (NIV)

13 Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!"

What they're saying is that the toughest thing to do in receiving salvation is to admit that there is no great thing you can do to get it. The toughest thing to do is to admit that you need it. As John Gerstner said years ago:

If you want to become a Christian all you need is need. All you need is nothing, and very few people are willing to say that.

Can you say that? Can you say today, "I need God. I need a relationship with God. I'm ready to acknowledge my need and come to God with empty hands." Let's pray.

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2 Kings 5.1-15

I. The Myth: To succeed you must have no
needs

The Truth: To succeed you must acknowledge
your needs

II. The Myth: To succeed you must go to the successful

The Truth: To succeed you must go to the people of God

III. The Myth: To succeed you must achieve

The Truth: To succeed you must receive