

Holy Water

The Lord God imparts His grace through different means. One of the means by which He gives us the grace of healing is through Holy Water – sanctified for such purpose through His grace /*Gen 1:2*/.

We see the healing power of Holy Water in a story written in 2nd Kings, chapter 5. There was a Captain of the Syrian Army named Naaman. Naaman was a man of great honor but he was a leper. Seeking to be healed he came to the prophet Elisha. The prophet sent a message to Naaman telling him to wash himself in Jordan seven times and that he then would be cleansed of his leprosy. But Naaman was upset at first and went away. But his servants pleaded with him to do as Elisha had commanded and Naaman washed himself seven times in Jordan. And behold he was clean again. Naaman went back to Elisha and said: *"I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel."*

This happened not because God could not heal him without water, but so that Naaman may know of the prophet of God and also glorify the Lord God Himself. In this day and age also, God reveals His saints through a spring of Holy Water in places dedicated in their honor.

We see God's healing grace with Holy Water in the New Testament also. In the Gospel of John, on chapter 9, there is a story of a man who was born blind from his mother's womb. Jesus' disciples asked Him why this man was born blind: was it because of his sin or his parents' sin. But the Lord Jesus Christ answered: *"Neither has this man sinned, nor his parents, but that the works of God should be made manifest in him."* Then the Lord Jesus commanded the blind man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. So, he did as he was told and came back seeing. Thus was the power of God manifest in this man who was born blind but now could see after washing in the Holy Waters of Siloam.

There was a pool named Bethesda in Jerusalem, where a great multitude used to lie by the pool to be healed. An angel used to move the water at certain season and whoever stepped in the pool immediately after the angel used to be healed of whatever disease he or she had.

Even today, such miracles happen in the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo church, which has been blessed with a great deal of holy sites where many are healed of their disease by washing with springs of Holy Water.

There are some who doubt the healing power of Holy Water as Naaman doubted at first. Many also doubted the man who was born blind from his mother's womb and were asking him repeatedly how he was healed. But not many believed his testimony. As we can clearly see in the scriptures, healing with Holy Water is a practice though which we come to see the glory of God, and also understand the honor bestowed upon the righteous. That is why we have a great deal of Holy Water springing in many sacred sites dedicated in the names of saints and angels.

The faithful, who believe in the grace of God, line up to wash in these Holy Waters in the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church even today, as those who used to wait for the moving of the water by the pool of Bethesda. For those who believe, and for those who seek to see the glory of God, they will witness God's grace and miracles through the washing with such Holy Water.

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