

Part 6: The End of Your Rope Pastor Grant Fishbook July 10 & 11, 2010

Common Understanding:

When you get to the end of your rope, make a knot and hang on!

Spiritual Understanding:

When the world gives you a rope, give it to God and let him hang on to you!

God's People at the End of Their Rope

David prayed (Psalm 51)

Isaiah panicked (Isaiah 6:5)

Elijah ran (1 Kings 19:3)

Peter wept bitterly (Matthew 26:74-75)

Samson called for strength (Judges 16:28)

Jonah pouted (Jonah 4)

James laughed (James 1:2)

Paul reflected (Philippians 1:21)

Naaman argued (2 Kings 5)

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

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'!"

- 2 Kings 5:11-13

Four Common Arguments

- 1. No!
- 2. But it's mine!
- 3. He hit me!
- 4. You're not not the boss of me!

Four Principles of Wholeness

- You have to <u>admit</u> you're sick before you will <u>pursue</u> a cure.
- Manufactured cures to spiritual problems are temporary and rarely produce <u>results</u>.
- 3. You have to be fully <u>submerged</u> to find relief.
- 4. You must fully obey to be fully whole.

Small Group Discussion Questions

- 1. What's the most outrageous thing you've ever been asked to do by a friend or family member. Did you actually go through with it? Why or why not?
- 2. What pushes you to the "end of your rope" faster than any other set of circumstances?
- 3. Are there areas of your life in which you find yourself arguing with God? Can you share them with us?
- 4. Describe an area of your life where you have found wholeness through obedience.
- 5. How can we pray for you tonight?