

A Letter from Fr. Patrick Kizza

October 12, 2025

Gratitude, Faith, and Perseverance in God

The readings for today present a powerful message about healing, gratitude, and faithfulness. From Naaman the Syrian in the First Reading to Paul's endurance in chains, and finally to the grateful Samaritan leper in the Gospel, we see the hand of God at work in transforming lives.

In **2 Kings 5:14-17**, Naaman is healed of his leprosy when he humbly obeys the prophet Elisha and bathes in the Jordan. His pride almost prevented him from receiving God's healing, yet once he trusted, his life was changed. Naaman's gratitude is evident—he proclaims there is no God except the God of Israel. This reminds us of that God's grace often requires humility and obedience before miracles unfold.

In **2 Timothy 2:8-13**, St. Paul reminds us that even though he is in chains, the Word of God is never chained. His perseverance in suffering mirrors Christ's own journey through death to resurrection. The message is clear: Christian faith is not about convenience, but about fidelity, even in hardship. God's promise is unshakable—if we remain faithful, we shall reign with Him.

The **Gospel (Luke 17:11-19)** brings these lessons together. Ten lepers cry out for healing, and all are cleansed, but only one—a Samaritan—returns to thank Jesus. Gratitude completes faith. Healing is not only physical but spiritual, and thanksgiving opens the heart to salvation.

In our world today, many people receive blessings but forget the Giver. Like the nine lepers, we can take God's gifts for granted, rushing back to daily life without acknowledging His mercy. Yet the call is clear: faith must lead to gratitude, and gratitude to witnesses.

We see living examples in the saints. **St. Francis of Assisi** gave thanks in all things, even poverty and suffering, seeing them as a gift that conformed him more closely to Christ. **St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)**, like Paul, bore with hardships for the sake of others, never losing faith in God's providence. And in everyday life, when someone who survives illness, overcomes hardship, or succeeds in work pauses to thank God and use their blessing for others, they live the spirit of the grateful leper.

Naaman teaches us humility, Paul teaches us perseverance, and the Samaritan leper teaches us gratitude. In our own time, we are invited to do the same: to humbly receive God's gifts, to endure with faith in trials, and to always return to give thanks. Only then will we hear Jesus' words addressed to us: *"Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."*



Fr. Patrick