

Is it ok for a Christian leader to receive financial support from an unbeliever? The Bible does not strictly prohibit, providing it springs from genuine generosity, or gratitude, with no strings attached.

The Word of God makes clear distinctions between these things and exhorts believers to exercise discernment before making any radical decisions.

Abraham would have nothing from the king of Sodom; Daniel refused to rank third in the kingdom of Babylon; Elisha refused the gifts from Naaman; the man of God from Judah would take nothing from King Jeroboam; and the Apostle Peter refused the money offered from Simon the magician.

However, the case of Elisha here becomes a little less clear than the rest. There doesn't appear to be anything in the story that would suggest the Syrian commander was not acting out of heartfelt gratitude.

Many commentators suggest Elisha wanted to teach him that the miracle came entirely from God, and that he himself was only the human vessel.

But Naaman would have already understood this from the manner in which the Prophet received him and wrought the miraculous healing. It is more likely the Lord wanted to teach them both something about the heart of the servant.

Jesus' reference to the incident when teaching in the synagogue at Nazareth would confirm this. While we are not specifically told Gehazi was an Israelite, we see several occasions where he confessed to be of that faith.