

## God's Calling Requirements Part 34

### How To Respond To Disasters

***“5 And Rehoboam dwelt in Jerusalem, and built cities for defence in Judah. 6 He built even Bethlehem, and Etam, and Tekoa, 7 And Bethzur, and Shoco, and Adullam, 8 And Gath, and Mareshah, and Ziph, 9 And Adoraim, and Lachish, and Azekah, 10 And Zorah, and Aijalon, and Hebron, which are in Judah and in Benjamin fenced cities. 11 And he fortified the strong holds, and put captains in them, and store of victual, and of oil and wine. 12 And in every several city he put shields and spears, and made them exceeding strong, having Judah and Benjamin on his side. 13 And the priests and the Levites that were in all Israel resorted to him out of all their coasts. 14 For the Levites left their suburbs and their possession, and came to Judah and Jerusalem: for Jeroboam and his sons had cast them off from executing the priest's office unto the LORD: 15 And he ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils, and for the calves which he had made. 16 And after them out of all the tribes of Israel such as set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the LORD God of their fathers. 17 So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong, three years: for three years they walked in the way of David and Solomon. 18 And Rehoboam took him Mahalath the daughter of Jerimoth the son of David to wife, and Abihail the daughter of Eliab the son of Jesse; 19 Which bare him children; Jeush, and Shamariah, and Zaham. 20 And after her he took Maachah the daughter of Absalom; which bare him Abijah, and Attai, and Ziza, and Shelomith. 21 And Rehoboam loved Maachah the daughter of Absalom above all his wives and his concubines: (for he took eighteen wives, and threescore concubines; and begat twenty and eight sons, and threescore daughters.) 22 And Rehoboam made Abijah the son of Maachah the chief, to be ruler among his brethren: for he thought to make him king. 23 And he dealt wisely, and dispersed of all his children throughout all the countries of Judah and Benjamin, unto every fenced city: and he gave them victual in abundance. And he desired many wives.” (2 Chronicles 11:5-23 KJV)***

After the death of Solomon, his son Rehoboam became a king. In the day that he was supposed to be anointed and confirmed as king, Jeroboam led rebelliousness and was able to get ten tribes and put them under him. For this reason Rehoboam left with Judah and Benjamin, to be under his leadership. That had happened in consequence to the sin of idol worship that King Solomon introduced and caused to be instituted in Jerusalem due to his marriages from many foreign wives. ***“11 Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. 12 Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. 13 Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.” (1 Kings 11:11-13 KJV)*** Rehoboam inherited the Kingdom from his father, but he also inherited troubles as a consequence of his father's sin. The same is happening to many people, they will get good things from their parents but also they will be afflicted with bad things due to the consequences of the sin of the parents. *Even in serving the Lord we might even be afflicted with what is none of our faults or mistakes, but still, God had a purpose and wisdom in that, and He wants us not*

*to be discouraged. But instead, to move forward and to have the desire to use all what is in our hands in orders for our families and for the church to be strengthened, increased and multiplied.*

Rehoboam was afflicted in a very short period of time; ten out of twelve tribes was taken away from him over a period of less than one week. Let us read what was taken place: ***“1 And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for to Shechem were all Israel come to make him king. 2 And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was in Egypt, whither he fled from the presence of Solomon the king, heard it, that Jeroboam returned out of Egypt. 3 And they sent and called him. So Jeroboam and all Israel came and spake to Rehoboam, saying, 4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore ease thou somewhat the grievous servitude of thy father, and his heavy yoke that he put upon us, and we will serve thee. 5 And he said unto them, Come again unto me after three days. And the people departed. 6 And king Rehoboam took counsel with the old men that had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying, What counsel give ye me to return answer to this people? 7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou be kind to this people, and please them, and speak good words to them, they will be thy servants for ever. 8 But he forsook the counsel which the old men gave him, and took counsel with the young men that were brought up with him, that stood before him. 9 And he said unto them, What advice give ye that we may return answer to this people, which have spoken to me, saying, Ease somewhat the yoke that thy father did put upon us? 10 And the young men that were brought up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou answer the people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it somewhat lighter for us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins. 11 For whereas my father put a heavy yoke upon you, I will put more to your yoke: my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions. 12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day, as the king bade, saying, Come again to me on the third day. 13 And the king answered them roughly; and king Rehoboam forsook the counsel of the old men, 14 And answered them after the advice of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add thereto: my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions. 15 So the king hearkened not unto the people: for the cause was of God, that the LORD might perform his word, which he spake by the hand of Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat. 16 And when all Israel saw that the king would not hearken unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? and we have none inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to your tents, O Israel: and now, David, see to thine own house. So all Israel went to their tents. 17 But as for the children of Israel that dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.” (2 Chronicles 10:1-17 KJV)*** Rehoboam lost also on that day the finance person who was responsible to collect the tribute from the Israelites, ***“18 Then king Rehoboam sent Hadoram that was over the tribute; and the children of Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. But king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem. 19 And Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.” (2 Chronicles 10:18-19 KJV)*** After this happened, Rehoboam wanted to use his military force, for he had 180000 soldiers, to stop that rebellion and that division, but the Lord stopped him with a firm message, ***“1 And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he gathered of the house of Judah and Benjamin an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against Israel, that he might bring the***

kingdom again to Rehoboam. 2 But the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying, 3 Speak unto Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin, saying, 4 Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren: return every man to his house: for this thing is done of me. And they obeyed the words of the LORD, and returned from going against Jeroboam.” (2 Chronicles 11:1-4 KJV) Rehoboam was called to refrain from doing any military action or to use power to regain the loss. Rehoboam was called to refrain from revenge and anger and to work with God in dealing with the present and the sudden disaster that had come upon him. In the same way, when we face troubles and calamity, we need to understand and accept, that revenge and fighting back will not help us, it will not help our families and will not help our church. When we pass through calamities as such we need to focus on what God is wanting from us to do, in repairing the defect, rebuilding the wall, to repent from our sins, to go back to God and to His ways, to reach out new people and to help them to walk with God.

Rehoboam accepted what God had placed upon him. He accepted that willingly and not because he was forced. The way he worked out the situation it shows that he accepted the disaster that God allowed to come upon him. If he was still nursing bad attitude of anger, revenge, dissatisfaction and unforgiveness, he will not be able to do well. In the same way, we need to clean our hearts toward God and toward man, from anger, grumbling, dissatisfaction, revenge or retaliation, so that we can cope successfully with the new disastrous events that would be coming into our lives.

Rehoboam was well in managing the troublous situation that he was in. Rehobam worked it out with the help of the Lord to bring out good things out of less and few things that had remained with him. Our good attitude will make the best out of the trials that God is allowing to pass into and through our lives. If you are passing troubles and you lose many things, then you need to trust God that you can work it out with Him; that with the little that is remaining with you, you can still do marvelous things.

Church crises, church division, rebelliousness and other hard issues should still motivate us to go forward and contained the crisis and adapt our situation to work out victory inspite of all the pain that we might be in.

From the Scripture that we had read you can learn new things of how you can overcome disasters:-

**1. Stay where you are:** “5 And Rehoboam dwelt in Jerusalem,” Rehoboam stayed in Jerusalem and accepted to live in the place and position that he experienced the defeat. He did not quit but faced the challenge. It was a challenge for him to show that he will trust God and the Lord would help him to change his miserable situation. Escaping from the troubles that God had put you in, or revenging, fighting back, anger and unforgiveness, will not be a method that the Lord will approve. Therefore don’t escape, accept the challenge. Stay and face and learn to work it out with God and with the few things that He had placed in your hand.

**2. Work hard and build what you can build:** “and built cities for defence in Judah. 6 He built even Bethlehem, and Etam, and Tekoa, 7 And Bethzur, and Shoco, and Adullam, 8

And Gath, and Mareshah, and Ziph, 9 And Adoraim, and Lachish, and Azekah, 10 And Zorah, and Aijalon, and Hebron, which are in Judah and in Benjamin fenced cities.” (2 Chronicles 11:6-10 KJV) God wants us to work hard and do what can be done in our hands, and to face crises and losses in the way that He wants us to face. Rehoboam was not discouraged with what he lost. He did not look on the things that went away but he focused and did his best to what is left in his hand. Living in dreams and entertaining painful and terrible memories and events will not help at all. Self pity, feeling sorry about yourself, grief and non willingness to be comforted, prolong sorrow, sour face, and downcast heart and spirit will not help, and it is not of the righteous way of God.

One thing worthy to put in your mind, and love it and keep it in your heart, that is still with you much and precious things. Therefore, value and esteem what is remaining and thanks God for it and start to build it up. Learn to accept the task of hard working and you will do much.

You look to king Rehoboam and how much he build; he **built cities for defence**, and **He built even** lot of cities. King Rehoboam got the persistence in doing the right thing and the right choice repeatedly. “6 He built even Bethlehem, and Etam, and Tekoa, 7 And Bethzur, and Shoco, and Adullam, 8 And Gath, and Mareshah, and Ziph, 9 And Adoraim, and Lachish, and Azekah, 10 And Zorah, and Aijalon, and Hebron, which are in Judah and in Benjamin fenced cities.” (2 Chronicles 11:6-9 KJV) In total he built fifteen cities. He did much. Some of these cities are small and even villages, but he valued what God had placed in his hand. Learn to count your blessings and value and be thankful to God for the remaining things that he had placed in your hand. This you will express when you work hard and get fully involve to do the best of what you can do to your family, in your job, to your nation, and to your church and in your ministry. Don’t regret any thing was taken away from you. It is of no value for you today. Forget what you had lost and learn to value what is placed in your hands and under your care.

**3. Fortify the strong things that God had placed in your side:** “11 And he fortified the strong holds, and put captains in them, and store of victual, and of oil and wine. 12 And in every several city he put shields and spears, and made them exceeding strong, having Judah and Benjamin on his side.” (2 Chronicles 11:11-12 KJV) King Rehoboam was keen to fortify the strategy of warfare by using equipped personnel and made them ready for war. He showed prudence in the matter of stewardship in making **store of victual, and of oil and wine**. In addition he prepared weapons. **And in every several city he put shields and spears, and made them exceeding strong.** Fortification of your position and your stand against the enemy, and the way to fight back the devil forces that had invaded you is by showing good stewardship in dealing with personnel: training them, equipping them and made them ready, and in keeping stores of material things that are needed for the days to come. Making disciples and training them for suffering, keeping stewardship, teaching them to be accountable, and to be watchmen and watchwomen are the basic and foundational thing for the church to be built on.

**4. Welcome and draw near to God by being in company and in association with those that are attached with God, who are ordained to serve Him:** “13 And the priests and the Levites that were in all Israel resorted to him out of all their coasts.” (2 Chronicles 11:13 KJV) Being near the Levites and the priests, who are today, the church worker and the leaders in the

New Testament church, will impart to you wisdom and you will have the privileges of the right advice and the right counsel when you are in need for that.

Jeroboam the enemy of Rehoboam and who led the division, rejected the anointed people of God and he replaced them with people who know how to perform religious activities but they are not attached to God, **“14 For the Levites left their suburbs and their possession, and came to Judah and Jerusalem: for Jeroboam and his sons had cast them off from executing the priest's office unto the LORD: 15 And he ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils, and for the calves which he had made.”** (2 Chronicles 11:14-15 KJV)

**5. Welcome and be with the people who are coming in company and in association with those who are attached with God, whom God ordained to serve Him: “16 And after them out of all the tribes of Israel such as set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the LORD God of their fathers.”** (2 Chronicles 11:16 KJV) Those people came from the tribes that were under the leadership of Jeroboam. They came because they wanted to continue to be under the care of the priests and the Levites who were the servants of God. As we continue to seek the Lord then He will draw genuine people to be with us. There will be people hating us and separate from us, but put it in your mind, that there will be always people who would seek God, they will come to us, and we will be with them as they are the right people whom God had ordained for us to be with in serving Him.

God had rewarded Rehoboam for his obedience when he refrained to fight and use force to regain the Kingdom. God brought to him from the ten tribes that were divided the true people who desire to live for God in holiness and righteousness. **“16 And after them out of all the tribes of Israel such as set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the LORD God of their fathers.”** (2 Chronicles 11:16 KJV) The days proved to Rehoboam that those who divided and went away were of no use and their hearts was not with God. They are not a loss when such kind of people had gone away from Him. In the same way, when you humble down and accept the will of God in suffering, the Lord will show you more clear facts and truth and makes you realized that you had not lost things of value. It is not a loss when you lose such kind of people who had gone away from God and not from you alone.

**6. Strength and vitality will again be restored: “17 So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong, three years: for three years they walked in the way of David and Solomon.”** (2 Chronicles 11:17 KJV) All the above factors that we discussed above, had accumulated and contributed to the final strength that Rehoboam, Jerusalem, Judah and Benjamin had again enjoyed. Three years of hard work, seeking the Lord and building and dealing with broken things and restoring them in the ways of God, as David and Solomon did in their good performance in following God, had paved the way to the final strength that Judah (the church) had reached on. Put it then in your mind, that your consistent walk with God, will guarantee to you the full recovery and the full restoration of all of what you have lost.

Apostle John assured the churches who were under his care after the instance of division that had happened with Gnostic group who ultimately left the church. He told them the following: **“19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no**

**doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”** (1 John 2:19 KJV) Apostle John further assured the church and the brethren, that still they have much and they need to value what they have, **“20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. 24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. 25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life. 27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. 28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.”** (1 John 2:20,24,25,27,28) What they were promised and had, we have them the same today; What they have and we have the same today is God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son of God, Eternal life and The Holy Spirit. These are our needs and our privileges for life and life eternal. To keep these four is to keep the Word of God alive in our lives and to walk and follow the ways of God.

**7. Multiplication through new families and through making disciples: “18 And Rehoboam took him Mahalath the daughter of Jerimoth the son of David to wife, and Abihail the daughter of Eliab the son of Jesse; 19 Which bare him children; Jeush, and Shamariah, and Zaham. 20 And after her he took Maachah the daughter of Absalom; which bare him Abijah, and Attai, and Ziza, and Shelomith. 21 And Rehoboam loved Maachah the daughter of Absalom above all his wives and his concubines: (for he took eighteen wives, and threescore concubines; and begat twenty and eight sons, and threescore daughters.) 23 .... And he desired many wives.”** (2 Chronicles 11:19-21, 23) There are ways ordained by God and led by the Holy Spirit that shall add to the multiplication and to the increase of the church; and these are through evangelism, making disciples, marriages for those who are ready and well prepared to be in families, as well as training our children and making them the new disciples.

**8. With Wisdom let us use those whom God gave us to fill key positions that will add and contribute to the vitality of the church: “22 And Rehoboam made Abijah the son of Maachah the chief, to be ruler among his brethren: for he thought to make him king. 23 And he dealt wisely, and dispersed of all his children throughout all the countries of Judah and Benjamin, unto every fenced city: and he gave them victual in abundance.”** (2 Chronicles 11:22, 23 KJV) Paul said to Timothy, **“2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”** (2 Timothy 2:2 KJV) Our disciples and our children that we trained, our spiritual and our physical children that we are nurturing are good asset for us to build His church on the foundation of the prophets and the apostles, and Jesus Christ being the corner stone, **“19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”** (Ephesians 2:19-22 KJV)



***My dear and beloved:*** Jesus on the cross was left with few remained with Him, but He continued to the end and wrought great victory for us by rising from the death. Paul in his letter to the Colossians he wrote the followings ***“7 All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord: 8 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts; 9 With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here. 10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;) 11 And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellow workers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.” (Colossians 4:7-11 KJV)*** As we can notice from what we read that, Paul left with few persons to work with him and to do the work of Jesus. Paul did very well with the few that had remained with him, and even to this very day the Church of God is moving forward with the same victory that Jesus did on cross. And today, my brethren, the same battle, I and you are facing. Let us not look of what we lost, for they are of no value, but to the precious things that still remained with us. Let us not look to the past but the glorious future and the wonderful plan of God to restore us. And let us not look to the enemy to revenge but let us focus on Jesus’ mission and many souls who need our hands and our help. Let us be the instruments of righteousness and the workers of Jesus and His ministers to serve Him and achieve His purpose. Let us stand against Devil and its schemes. It is not the division that is harmful but the discouragement and the despair. I rebuke the spirit of discouragement and the spirit of despair in the name of Jesus. Let us move forward in victory as we agree to pray.

***My Prayer:*** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your encouraging words that had opened my eyes to see the truth.

*Lord I repent of the sin of \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Let us repent of our sins \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Repent of the sins of revenge, retaliation, un-forgiveness, anger and fighting.*

*I come against all the lies and deceptions of devil in my lives and I rebuke them all in the name of Jesus.*

*Lord I commit myself to apply all the principles of this message in my life to go forward working with your good plan of restoration.*

*Lord I trust you that you will strengthen me and you will be providing all my needs. Lord refill me once again with the Holy Spirit, and give me the spiritual gifts that I need to go on in serving you.*

*Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to serve you and who are willing to face trials and whatever circumstance that you ordained for them to pass through. Lord bless them with strength them and give them good health. Lord bless them with vision and*

*inspirations, Lord take away from their hearts and minds all the pain and the grief and all the discouragements. Lord strengthens their inner being and let them move forward in serving you and reach the lost in this world.*

*Lord bless your church, add to us workers and members, Lord enable us to reach new area with the gospel of Jesus, and to plant new Bible studies and new congregations. We thank you and we praise you for all your goodness and your faithfulness to us. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

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