

God's Calling Requirements

Part 38

From The Life Of King Asa Part 1

"1 So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David; and Asa his son reigned in his stead. In his days the land was quiet ten years. 2 And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God: 3 For he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves: 4 And commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment. 5 Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images: and the kingdom was quiet before him. 6 And he built fenced cities in Judah: for the land had rest, and he had no war in those years; because the LORD had given him rest. 7 Therefore he said unto Judah, Let us build these cities, and make about them walls, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us; because we have sought the LORD our God, we have sought him, and he hath given us rest on every side. So they built and prospered. 8 And Asa had an army of men that bare targets and spears, out of Judah three hundred thousand; and out of Benjamin, that bare shields and drew bows, two hundred and fourscore thousand: all these were mighty men of valour. 9 And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah. 10 Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. 11 And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee. 12 So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled. 13 And Asa and the people that were with him pursued them unto Gerar: and the Ethiopians were overthrown, that they could not recover themselves; for they were destroyed before the LORD, and before his host; and they carried away very much spoil. 14 And they smote all the cities round about Gerar; for the fear of the LORD came upon them: and they spoiled all the cities; for there was exceeding much spoil in them. 15 They smote also the tents of cattle, and carried away sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem." (2 Chronicles 14:1-15 KJV)

"1 So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David; and Asa his son reigned in his stead." (2 Chronicles 15:1 KJV) King Asa was the fifth from King David, Solomon, Rehobam, Abijah, then Asa. He was one of the good kings that ruled over Judah. ***"9 And in the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel reigned Asa over Judah. 10 And forty and one years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom." (1 Kings 15:9-10 KJV)*** ***"2 And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God." (2 Chronicles 14:2 KJV)***: King Asa did what is right in the eyes of God and not what is right in the eyes of the people. King Asa did the following good things:-

1. "3 For he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves." (2 Chronicles 14:3 KJV): King Asa removed the wrong ways of worship and the wrong practices of life. *We need to endeavour to remove the*

wrong practices of worshipping God and the idols and the wrong style of life that people practice, and to teach the people the right way to live.

The following are some of these idols that we need to be persistent to fight against. Although we have discussed that before, some of us still needed to be reminded to completely give up all these idols with their wrong practices.

A. The idol of lust in the form of sexual immorality in the form of dating and courting, having boyfriend and girlfriend, fornication, adultery, live-in relationship, unlawful marriages in the form of accepting divorce with remarriage, and accepting a single father or a single mother to marry someone other than the mother or the father of his or her child or children.

B. The idols and the food sacrificed for idols as described here.

- The celebration of Christmas after the sun god of the heathen. With its Santa Claus, the tree, laziness with the long holidays of 2-3 weeks, the exchange of gifts, the banquets, and lavish spending, all this was done by the pagan for their sun god in their celebrations. That feast of pagans was Christianized by the Catholic Church and till this day the Christian churches are infected with all the above mentioned practices that are totally non Biblical.

- The New Year celebration. The celebration of birthdays and wedding anniversaries, events and celebrations glorifying men and not God. Again such celebrations have taken its roots from the world and not from the Scriptures and got adapted into God's church.

- Father's Day and Mother's Day celebrations, taken from the world and introduced into the church.

- Halloween (Harvest), All Saints Day, Valentine's Day, Pastor's Month, First girl celebration, and you can add more to the list, for almost every culture and ethnic group had added certain idols and days for celebration, without any Biblical reason, into the life of the church.

C. The idol of greed, the love of money, and covetousness, ***"For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God." (Ephesians 5:5 KJV)*** ***"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry." (Colossians 3:5 KJV)***

2. "5 Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images: and the kingdom was quiet before him." (2 Chronicles 14:5 KJV) King Asa removed the high places.

The high places are collateral places that the people were prohibited to worship God in them. They were having a centralized form of worship where they need to do inside the temple of God in Jerusalem under the supervision of the priests and not in other places. But the people were going to the high places where they can do their own and what they like without the scrutinizing of the priests of the temple. The priests in the high places they follow the wishes of the people and they don't discipline them. On the high places they spent and they put their treasures in these collateral places. They put their treasures on things that are not of the will of God. The priests of the high places were corrupted and were agreeing with the people and allow them to do what they want to do. *In the same way, we should not go along with the people and their wishes, and compromise with them and misleading them further. Compromises mislead the people and bring them further away from God.*

We need to avoid going to places where we are spending unnecessary on things that are out of the will of God. *We need also to teach our families and children to avoid spending on wrong*

and unnecessary things. As well as we need to train ourselves and our families not to go and move doing our own, but instead doing the whole will of God.

3. ***“4 And commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment.” (2 Chronicles 14:4 KJV)*** King Asa commanded the people to seek God and to do His commandments. It is so hard to face the people and to tell them to go and seek God, find out what pleases Him and what are the things that they need to do and the things they need to refrain, and to obey the commands of God. *We need to bring the people back to read the Word of God in the Bible so they can understand the will of God and to apply that in their lives. As well as we too need to seek God and find out from Him the good plans that He has for us and for our children. We need to seek God and find out what are the sins that we need to repent and renounce. We need to seek God to find out what are the good things and the good work that God prepared in advance for us to do.*

4. ***“6 And he built fenced cities in Judah: for the land had rest, and he had no war in those years; because the LORD had given him rest. 7 Therefore he said unto Judah, Let us build these cities, and make about them walls, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us; because we have sought the LORD our God, we have sought him, and he hath given us rest on every side. So they built and prospered.” (2 Chronicles 14:6-7 KJV)*** King Asa was good steward by using wisely the time of peace and the good resources that God had given to him to build fenced cities. *We too in the same way we need to use the time of peace and the resources that we have to support His work and the ministry and the church entrusted to us.* The Word of God says ***“So they built and prospered.”*** *Therefore, if we go forward and do constructive things for the Lord, then we will build and we will achieve good things for His glory, and as we obey and do the good work that He prepared in advance for us to do, He will prosper us and bless our children and prosper them.*

5. ***“8 And Asa had an army of men that bare targets and spears, out of Judah three hundred thousand; and out of Benjamin, that bare shields and drew bows, two hundred and fourscore thousand: all these were mighty men of valour.” (2 Chronicles 14:8 KJV)*** King Asa prepared and trained people and workers for the warfare. He was ready when the enemy attacked. *We too need to continually train and teach new workers to do the work of God, so we will be ready when the enemy is attacking us, as well as we will be continually going on forward to go and evangelize, reaching new people and making new disciples.*

6. ***“9 And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah. 10 Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.” (2 Chronicles 14:9-10 KJV)*** The writer of the this chapter arrange it in a way that after Asa built these fence cities and after he developed a strong army, then he was attacked by Zerah. So all what he did was programmed to face the coming threats. We in the same way we need to do what God inspire us to do so we will be ready to face the coming events of the tomorrow future. King Asa was courageous in facing the coming challenge of the enemy. The meaning of the word ‘Zerah’ is rising. King Asa was courageous in facing the rising enemy against him. We need to trust God, that as we obey God and walk in all His ways He will be the one to deal with the rising enemy and the threats that are coming against us. *In the same way, we need to put our trust in God, that when the enemy is rising, the Lord shall protect us and preserve us troubles and hardships.*

7. ***“11 And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee.” (2 Chronicles 14:11 KJV)*** King Asa had a big army and well equipped but he was faced with a bigger army than his. What King Asa did good is that he did not rely on his army or on his equipment but he relied fully on God. He cried to God when he faced the rising enemy. *In the same way, when we are facing enemy or troubles coming in front of us, we need not to rely on the things that we have, but we need to cry out to God. We need to cry out to God in prayer.* Let us now go through the prayer of King Asa and expound further:

LORD, it is nothing with thee to help: God is able to help us in whatever circumstance and by faith we receive it.

Whether with many: It does not matter how many we are, God will help us even if we are few in number.

Or with them that have no power: It does not matter of how much power and resources we have, God still will help us and enable us to win even if we have less resources for the battle.

Help us, O LORD our God: Lord we will not go to anyone else, but we will be there at your door, knocking on your door only till you rise up and help us.

For we rest on thee: Lord, we fully trust you. You are the one who gave us rest and we trust that you will continue to work out that you will not allow this rest and peace to be taken away from us.

And in thy name we go against this multitude: We have no other weapon or power but You alone O Lord.

O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee: You are our God and there is no other god beside you, therefore, we beseech you Lord act on our behalf and let no man prevail. God for sure will hear us when we cry out to Him, and He will help us. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

8. ***“12 So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled.” (2 Chronicles 14:12 KJV)*** *King Asa trusted God that He can help him to defeat the enemy. In the same way we need to trust God that He can help us to defeat the enemy that are rising against us.* God Himself here smote the Ethiopians before Asa. God Himself will smite our enemies by Himself and He will deal with them.

9. ***“13 And Asa and the people that were with him pursued them unto Gerar: and the Ethiopians were overthrown, that they could not recover themselves; for they were destroyed before the LORD, and before his host; and they carried away very much spoil. 14 And they smote all the cities round about Gerar; for the fear of the LORD came upon them: and they spoiled all the cities; for there was exceeding much spoil in them. 15 They smote also the tents of cattle, and carried away sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.” (2 Chronicles 14:13-15 KJV)*** The battle was for the Lord, and that is why their enemy gets destroyed and was not able to recover again. The enemy who came to Asa came in one direction but they were defeated and fled in seven directions and pursued by Asa and his army. King Asa and the people with him gathered the plunder what the Lord had given to them. *In the same way after any attack of the enemy, and after we cry out to God, we need to trust God that He will deal with our enemies, and He will deal with them in such a way that*

they will not recover in a way that they will not be able to come and attack us again, and we will pursue after them to collect the plunder.

10. “15 They smote also the tents of cattle, and carried away sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.” (2 Chronicles 14:15 KJV) King Asa and the people with him gathered the plunder that the Lord had given to them and smote the strongholds of the enemy. In the same way, we need to gather the plunder that the Lord is giving us and execute with Him His judgment and achieve what He ordained for us to do. The Lord gave King Asa and the people with him great plunder that they took with them to Jerusalem, to the house of God, where they will offer part of them to the Lord. In the same way, the Lord shall give to us great plunder that we will take and give it back to the Lord to support and to advance the work of God in His church.

My dear and beloved: It is so impressive and clear the spiritual progression that King Asa had achieved for himself and for the life of the people of God who were with him, and how beautifully God imparted great victory, revival, sanctification, and people committed to come back to God and to have covenant with Him. Let us get encouraged of what we heard and knew today about what King Asa did and how he obeyed the Lord, and let us apply the principle of this message in our life so we will prosper, with our families, our children, our disciples, our congregation, and the Church of God.

Let us pray: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life.

Lord thank you for your word that showed me sound principles in how to follow you and to do what is right in your sight.

Confess now your sins and shortcomings to the Lord. Renounce the sins of lack of trust in God, the sin of the fear of man, the sin of lack of prayers, the sin of compromises, idol worship, the sin of corruption, etc. Ask God forgiveness for all these sins.

Lord I commit myself to put my trust fully on you, to remove idols, abominations and wrong practices in my life and in the life of the people who are around me, those who are under my care, and in the life of your church. Lord gives me courage and the boldness to do that and protect me from evil doers. Lord as you had brought people to support King Asa, Lord also bring faithful people to help me in the ministry that you entrusted to me.

Let us cry out to God to help us from any trouble that we are passing through _____.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who entrusted themselves to abide in your Word, Lord protect them, provide for them, and do miracles and wonders in their lives. Lord I pray that you give them the fruit of the Holy Spirit to be similar in life to you, and that people will see you through their lives. Lord I pray for them that you will fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the gifts that they need to go and evangelize and make new disciples and bring the changes that you want to see in the life of your church and your people.

Lord I pray for us as a church, Lord give us unity and unite our faith and increase our trust in you. Lord go ahead of us and fight our battles and deal with those who try to invade us. Lord

we cry out to you to help us, “LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee.” Thank you Lord for answering our prayers and for the victory that we receive in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord we pray for revival, we pray that You will direct us to remove the high places and the rest of the idols that the people delight in. Lord I pray for cleansing in your church. Lord I pray that you remove from among us those who are not willing to seek your face. Lord I pray that you will continue to give us joy, peace and rest round about, so that we can continue to reach new people, evangelizing, planting new Bible studies, making new disciples, and planting new congregations for the church. 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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