

God's Calling Requirements Part 38

From The Life Of King Asa Part 2

"1 And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded: 2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you. 3 Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law. 4 But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them. 5 And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries. 6 And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity. 7 Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded. 8 And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that was before the porch of the LORD. 9 And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the LORD his God was with him. 10 So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa. 11 And they offered unto the LORD the same time, of the spoil which they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep. 12 And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul; 13 That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman. 14 And they swore unto the LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets. 15 And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about. 16 And also concerning Maachah the mother of Asa the king, he removed her from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove: and Asa cut down her idol, and stamped it, and burnt it at the brook Kidron. 17 But the high places were not taken away out of Israel: nevertheless the heart of Asa was perfect all his days. 18 And he brought into the house of God the things that his father had dedicated, and that he himself had dedicated, silver, and gold, and vessels. 19 And there was no more war unto the five and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa." (2 Chronicles 15:1-19 KJV) In this message we will learn further good lessons from the life of King Asa.

"1 And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded: 2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you." (2 Chronicles 15: 1-2 KJV) King Asa listened to the instruction and the prophecy of Azariah. The meaning of Azariah is, "Jehovah has helped." Azariah explained the whole situation to King Asa and he encouraged him to do what is right. Truly God had helped Asa and the army with him in their battle against Zerah the Ethiopian, therefore now, this is the time for them to be faithful to God. King Asa listened and obeyed the message of God to him. In the same way, be faithful to God and do the right thing as He was faithful to you and had delivered you from your trouble and your enemies. Azariah explained the whole situation to King Asa and he encouraged him to do what is right. In the same way, we need to go out, to move and to explain and expound the message of God to our families, children and to the people who are under our care and those around us so that the message of God that they will receive

when they will apply in their lives, the message will help them in their daily life and living and will bring victory and deliverance.

The message that you receive and apply will help you in your life, and as the followings:-

"The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you." (2 Chronicles 15:2 KJV) If you are with God then He is with you, but if you will leave Him, then He will leave you too.

"3 Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law." (2 Chronicles 15: 3 KJV) What he mean here that Israel was without God and without a teaching priest. They have the temple of God in the midst of them, and many priests are there. Even now there are many churches and workers without number but God is not in the midst of His people. If there is no one who is teaching and is disciplining the people with the Word of God then God's presence is not there in the mid of His people. Even if there are churches and workers, but if the Word of God is not taught and expounded then there is no God among His people. Therefore we need to continue to teach and disciple the people and train them in the ways of God so that God's presence will be with His people.

"4 But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them." (2 Chronicles 15:4 KJV) If you chose to turn to God while you are in trouble, repent of your sins, and seek Him to draw near to Him, then you will be found by the Lord and He will help you. My advice to you is that no need to wait for troubles to come to start to seek God but to start to seek Him now. Sadly speaking many of the people they will come to God only when they will have trouble but once their troubles are finished or resolved they will go away from God. I hope and pray that you will not be among such kind of people. What God is telling here is not to be opportunistic; if God had been good with you then behave and be good toward God.

"5 And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries. 6 And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity." (2 Chronicles 15:5-6 KJV) Troubles, trials and up roaring around you are all because of the sin and disobedience. Sins, lack of commitment, and disobedience will bring God's wrath and anger on the people. Sins will take away God's presence from our lives. Therefore let us take heed of the turmoil that is going on around the world and come back to God in repentance, so we will be spared of troubles and His wrath. Therefore, today as you hear the message consider your ways, repent and come back to the Lord, so such up roaring events will not reach to you.

"7 Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded." (2 Chronicles 15:7 KJV) When you turn to God and start to seek Him, then your work will be rewarded by the Lord. God wants you to continue to serve Him and to continue to do what He is asking you to do and He will be the one to reward you. This message of Azariah was to encourage King Asa and made him bolder to face sins and wrong doings and start to do the needed reformations. He was telling to him not to be opportunistic like others, that when they will receive the good things from God they will go away from Him and start to offer to the friends and spend on parties and gatherings and on projects not of the will of God. God sent Azariah to speak to Asa whose heart was perfect and was willing to follow God and do the things needed to bring revival. In the same way, the message that is reaching you now is to

motivate you to move forward and combat sins and to achieve the needed reformations that God want you to achieve. If you turn to God and start to seek Him, then your work will be rewarded by the Lord. Therefore, be strong now and do not be weak for all your work will be rewarded by the Lord.

Time of Victory is a time of temptation; Azariah went up to Asa to tell him, that God had done His part and destroyed big army for you, now you need to do your part. People when they take the plunder they will go to parties, to hotels, to Safaris, to bless their friends and bless their neighbours and to bless those who helped them but no one will think to go to God and to His house, His church and to bless the Lord and His people.

Asa his heart was prepared to serve God, therefore when the message of God came through Azariah it agreed with his spirit and he was willing to move forward to serve the Lord and do His will. **“8 And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that was before the porch of the LORD.”** (2 Chronicles 15:8 KJV) When the Lord had given them great victory and plunder He would expect from them to be more obedience to Him. Therefore He sent His prophet to challenge them to draw near to God and to do His will in full. King Asa was encouraged more when he heard the encouraging message, and he further removed abominable idols out of all the land of Judah, Benjamin and the other cities from mount Ephraim that belonged to the tribes that had separated from Judah. *Therefore we need to be more encouraged now to reach new people and go out to them and give them the message of God that will make them rise up and to be bold to face sins, removing idols from their lives and start the reformation.* King Asa renewed the altar so it can be used to burn the offerings that the people will bring and offer to God. King Asa did further the following things: **“12 And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made. 13 And also Maachah his mother, even her he removed from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove; and Asa destroyed her idol, and burnt it by the brook Kidron.”** (1 Kings 15:12-13 KJV)

“12 And he took away the sodomites out of the land,” (1 Kings 15:12 KJV) The homosexual were present and tolerated by King Rehoboam, but King Asa, the grandson of King Rehoboam, removed them. *In the same way after we remove all the idols that is corrupting the church today (boyfriend, girlfriend, dating, courting, fornication, livein relationship, divorce and remarriage, Christmas, New Year, Valentine, Halloween, Father Day, Mother Day, All Saints Day, gluttony, greed, etc.), then we remove the idol of homosexuality. We need to continue to resist and not to accept homosexuality and the transgender as something acceptable to God. Not only that but everything accepted by our forefather and is not in the Scriptures we need to reject.*

“and removed all the idols that his fathers had made.” (1 Kings 15:12 KJV) He destroyed all the wrong practices and the idols of his fathers. He honored God and did not give honor to his fathers who sinned against God. *In the same way we need to give honor to God and not to our parents who sinned against God by not honoring their wrong practices.*

“13 And also Maachah his mother, even her he removed from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove; and Asa destroyed her idol, and burnt it by the brook Kidron.” (1 Kings 15:13 KJV) **“16 And also concerning Maachah the mother of Asa the king, he removed her from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove: and Asa cut down her idol,**

and stamped it, and burnt it at the brook Kidron.” (2 Chronicles 15:16 KJV) King Asa removed his mother from the position of queen. He did not honor her, because she set up idol and grove. **“and Asa destroyed her idol, and burnt it by the brook Kidron.”** He needed to remove her so that no one will be confused when they see the bad deeds of her. When people would see what Asa did to his mother, they will be aware that Asa is not after pleasing people, but he is after God and after doing His will. This remind us with Jesus how He put aside His mother from being a queen when she wanted to interfere with His work and to do her will, **“1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: 2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. 3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. 4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.”** (John 2:1-4 KJV) *Certain time a very near people in your heart will try to interfere with you and hinder you to do God's will by pushing their idols and agenda into your life stream. They will cause confusions to others. Therefore you need to be firm and strong with them and don't allow them to put their agenda in your life. The encouraging message of the Word of God should inspire you to go forward to obey God more and to remove idols and wrong setup that belongs to the traditional set up of your parents and the religious practices of the people around you. The encouraging message of the Word of God should inspire you to give up certain people or certain relationships that will cripple you and disturb the peace in your life because of the idols and sins those people brings into your life.*

“9 And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the LORD his God was with him. 10 So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa.” (2 Chronicles 15:9-10 KJV) King Asa, as he decided to obey and apply the message of God, the Lord brought new people around him, even from those divided tribes that went away from Judah at the time of king Rehoboam, **“when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.”** *In the same way when you fully obey God and set your heart to serve HIM and in doing HIS will, God will let people to see that HE is with you and He will let other people come and join us. God will add people to us when we obey Him and walk in His ways.*

God's presence in our lives will be either manifested with the material things that He give to us or through the spiritual blessings, deliverances and miracles that He will be adding into our lives. God would let the people see that He is blessing us and He will challenge them to repent and to come back to Him.

“11 And they offered unto the LORD the same time, of the spoil which they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep. 12 And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul.” (2 Chronicles 15:11-12 KJV) Through King Asa and his obedience to the Lord, revival brought once again in the life of God's people; they offered to God and they entered into a covenant with HIM. *In the same way, your obedience, God will use to bring revival in the life of other people and in the life of His church.* When the Lord had given them great victory and plunder He would expect from them to be more obedient to Him. Therefore He sent His prophet to challenge them to draw near to God and to do His will in full. *In the same way today, when the Lord is blessing us and adding to us, He would expect us to offer to Him the best of what He is giving us, from tithes, offerings and firstfruits, in addition to our lives, times and our talents.* **“12 And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their**

soul.” (2 Chronicles 15:12 KJV) They had a covenant to seek God, and seeking God is not a one or two days process but it takes months and years, and we must be aware that seeking God is going through the narrow gate and the narrow way that Jesus spoke that we need to seek it to find it.

“13 That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman. 14 And they swore unto the LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets.” (2 Chronicles 15:13-14 KJV) King Asa and the people with Him took a serious decision that those who are not willing to seek the Lord they will not be part of them. They trusted God that He will sustain them and care for all their needs even if they need to give up many people. We really certain times need to leave certain people and certain relationships in order also to avoid troubles and vexations from God. They trusted God that He will sustain them and care for all their needs even if people will move away from them. *You in the same way, do not to be afraid if you give up people who are not willing to follow God. Such people are useless. The Lord will keep you and sustain you, even with the little that is remaining with you and around you.*

“15 And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about. 19 And there was no more war unto the five and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa.” (2 Chronicles 15:15, 19 KJV) King Asa and the people with him as they started to seek God and follow His will, the Lord gave them joy, peace and rest round about. *As you love the Lord and draw near to him and motivate others to do the same, the Lord shall give you joy, peace and rest from your enemies.*

In the same way as we love the Lord and draw near to Him and motivate others to do the same, the Lord shall give us joy, peace and rest from our enemies. The rest round about you will come from the Lord when you start to seek God.

The question is this: How we know that we sought God and we are found of Him? When we are receiving the peace of God from every side.

In different places in this passage it speaks about peace, rest and quiet time, **“1 In his days the land was quiet ten years.”** **“6 because the LORD had given him rest.”** **“8 and he hath given us rest on every side.”** (2 Chronicles 14:1, 6, 8 KJV) What are the factors that can contribute to the peace and rest? It is not only God will give us rest but we need to work with God, cultivate and promote peace as we remove the idols, images, the high places, the groves, and as we apply and obey God’s Word and His commandments and as we seek Him we will receive His rest. Rest also can promote more peace and rest by building new and constructive things during the time of rest. *There are times God will give you more time. Good you rest, but as well as, good to think, that God had given you rest and time because He needs you to do certain constructive things in your life.* King Asa built new cities and made them walls, towers, gates and bars, so he achieved good things during the period of peace. As well as he built a big army and equipped it with weapons. The meaning of Asa is ‘healer’, or ‘injurious’. So he can be doing good things or he can be doing bad things. *The same you are today. Choose to do good things with the time and the resources He gave you and avoid doing bad things.*

“17 But the high places were not taken away out of Israel:” (2 Chronicles 15:17 KJV) These high places King Asa was not able to remove because they were not under his territory, but they

were under the tribes that had separated from Judah, **“Nevertheless the heart of Asa was perfect all his days.”** (2 Chronicles 15:17 KJV) *Do your part well as much as you can and let your heart be perfect before the Lord. The Lord will not cause you to be accountable to the areas of the ministry that are out of your power and jurisdiction.*

“18 And he brought into the house of God the things that his father had dedicated, and that he himself had dedicated, silver, and gold, and vessels.” (2 Chronicles 15:18 KJV) Through the life of King Asa the Lord restored all the treasures to His church. *As you commit your life to serve the Lord in such a way God will restore the treasures that is ordained for His church through your life and though your good work.*

My dear and beloved: It is so clear from the life of King Asa that we can work with God to bring His revival and reformation in our lives, in the life of His church, and in the life of the people around us.

Good example is the spiritual progression that King Asa had achieved for himself and for the life of the people of God who were with him, and for the life of the assembly with him, the Church of the Lord, and how beautifully God imparted great victory, revival, sanctification, reformation, and people commitment to come back to God and to have covenant with Him. In the same way, let us apply the principle of this message in our lives and commit ourselves to follow God wholeheartedly and bring revival and transformation in the life of the church and the people around us.

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 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.

Let us confess our sins unto the Lord. Lord forgive me my sins _____ . Ask God forgiveness for the sin of the fear of man, the sin of compromises, the sin of corruption, the sin of keeping traditional practices from your parents and from your culture and people. Ask God forgiveness from 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 and those who are under my care. Lord I commit myself to put out the following people out of my life _____ because of their corruption, idols and their endeavor to divert me from doing your will. Lord gives me courage and 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 us, we your church, the Church of God. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit to go on and serve you doing the very thing that you want me to do. Lord use me to bring revival and transformation into the life of your church. Lord leads me to evangelize to new people and to bring them into your presence.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who heard the message and who are willing to obey you, Lord strengthen them, protect them and provide all their needs, and fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need to go on and serve you. Lord enable us as a church to stand firm against all the form of idol worship, corruption, traditional practices, and the worldliness, and help us to reach new areas and new people with the Gospel of Jesus. Lord help us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let you 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.

God's Calling Requirements Part 38. From The Life Of King Asa Part 2. 2 Chronicles 15:1-19.
1 Kings 15:12-13. John 2:1-4.

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