# *God's Calling Requirements Part 35*
# *How To Maintain Your Achievements*

***"1 And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him. 2 And it came to pass, that in the fifth year of king Rehoboam Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had transgressed against the LORD, 3 With twelve hundred chariots, and threescore thousand horsemen: and the people were without number that came with him out of Egypt; the Lubims, the Sukkiims, and the Ethiopians. 4 And he took the fenced cities which pertained to Judah, and came to Jerusalem. 5 Then came Shemaiah the prophet to Rehoboam, and to the princes of Judah, that were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, Ye have forsaken me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak. 6 Whereupon the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, The LORD is righteous. 7 And when the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance; and my wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak. 8 Nevertheless they shall be his servants; that they may know my service, and the service of the kingdoms of the countries. 9 So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he took all: he carried away also the shields of gold which Solomon had made. 10 Instead of which king Rehoboam made shields of brass, and committed them to the hands of the chief of the guard, that kept the entrance of the king's house. 11 And when the king entered into the house of the LORD, the guard came and fetched them, and brought them again into the guard chamber. 12 And when he humbled himself, the wrath of the LORD turned from him, that he would not destroy him altogether: and also in Judah things went well. 13 So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem, and reigned: for Rehoboam was one and forty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. 14 And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD. 15 Now the acts of Rehoboam, first and last, are they not written in the book of Shemaiah the prophet, and of Iddo the seer concerning genealogies? And there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually. 16 And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David: and Abijah his son reigned in his stead." (2 Chronicles 12:1-16 KJV)***

We had studied how Rehoboam and the people with him worked hard for three years to build up what God had placed and kept in their hands after the division of the ten tribes from Judah. In this message we will study from the pitfalls of Rehoboam of how we can maintain our achievements.

***1. Avoid relaxation and stage of coldness and backsliding after God had build you up:*** Rehoboam and the people with him worked hard for three years to build up what God had placed and kept in his hand. ***"1 And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him." (2 Chronicles 12:1 KJV)*** Rehoboam, and the people with him after they were established they started to forsake the Lord by forsaking His law. It will not help you and it will not do you good when you do such things. Don't belittle the grace of God and the goodness of the Lord toward you.

***2. Be persistant in your endeavour to serve God and to live for Him:*** The three years of persistent work that Rehoboam and his people get involved in, were followed by two years of spiritual backsliding. Some people are only good when they are in troubles, but once they are relieved then they will not do well. Such kind of people God will not approve. God will not approve people who keep just the passing level. God's passing level is total and persistent commitment. Such kinds of people are not conscious of God, but are only conscious when troubles come. **Put it always in your mind that any period of relaxation and lack of commitment will be ended up with another trouble in your life**.

***3. Avoid and hate sins as God hate them: "2 And it came to pass, that in the fifth year of king Rehoboam Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had transgressed against the LORD." (2 Chronicles 12:2 KJV)*** The question is, 'Why and how they transgressed against the Lord?' Let us read what the Bible speaks more about the life of King Rehoboam:

***"21 And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD did choose out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. 22 And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done. 23 For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree. 24 And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel. 25 And it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem: 26 And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he even took away all: and he took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made. 27 And king Rehoboam made in their stead brasen shields, and committed them unto the hands of the chief of the guard, which kept the door of the king's house. 28 And it was so, when the king went into the house of the LORD, that the guard bare them, and brought them back into the guard chamber. 29 Now the rest of the acts of Rehoboam, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 30 And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days. 31 And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. And Abijam his son reigned in his stead." (1 Kings 14:21-31 KJV)***

Rehoboam and the people with him did the following evils, ***"22 And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done. 23 For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree. 24 And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel." (1 Kings 14:22-24 KJV)*** They built and spent not only on unnecessary things but on things that God prohibited and are harmful, and in this way they made God jealous of them and in this way they added to the sins of their fathers.

***A. <u>For they also built them high places</u>:*** High places are counterfeits of the temple of God and people were prohibited to worship God in them. They had a centralized form of worship where they needed to go inside the temple of God in Jerusalem under the supervision of the priests and not to other places. The people went to the high places to do their own and not be open to the scrutiny of the priests of the temple. In the high places, they do their own and spent their treasures against the will of God. Many Christians attend worship in the church at the weekend but for the rest of the days they do their own in the high places and the church leaders keep quiet about it for fear of losing their members. Spending on things not ordained by God will finally weaken the individuals, the family and finally the church. That is why many families and churches are in debt.

***B. <u>Images</u>:*** These are idols and figures that they admire, adorn, and put their trust on, instead of putting their trust on the Lord, or on His Words and commands. They spent on all these things instead of spending and dedicating what they have unto God. We as a church should be tactful and discerning to break down and demolish idols in the life of the people; we need to break down idols they cling on and idols depend on without putting God first.

***C. <u>Groves</u>: "21 Thou shalt not plant thee a grove of any trees near unto the altar of the Lord thy God, which thou shalt make thee." (Deuteronomy 16:21 KJV)*** Groves are gardens planted around altars to beautify them in order to make the worship places more appealing to the senses. Nowadays, food, festivals, appealing music and dress, sophisticated sound systems, elaborate lighting, lasers, and sound effects are used by churches to attract and appeal to the sensuality of the people. Some of these churches are like discotheques. God does not want people to come to Him because of their affinity to sensuality, but He is looking for true worshippers who will worship Him in spirit and in truth and be drawn to Him for His Word. The responsibility lies in our hands.

***D. <u>There were also sodomites (homosexuals) in the land</u>:*** Homosexuals were also in the land. Homosexuality is not only a sin as in adultery, stealing, or idol worship, but it is an abomination. ***"22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination." (Leviticus 18:22 KJV)*** Incest and bestiality (sex with animals) are other abominations mentioned in ***Leviticus 18***. Selling the lives of your children to the devil and making them walk through the fire and destroying their lives with ungodly practices and sins is another abomination. ***"31 Thou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God: for every abomination to the Lord, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods." (Deuteronomy 12:31 KJV)***

***"There were also sodomites (homosexuals) in the land"***, and let us put it in this way, ***there were also <u>(homosexuals)</u> in the land:*** It means that they had tolerated this sin and were not bothered or disturbed by it. Abomination is anything that causes disgust or loathing a thing to abhor or hate. When people accept to live with sin without hating it, it is time for God's anger and jealousy to be kindled against them. ***"21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils. 22 Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?" (1 Corinthians 10:21-22 KJV)*** Jesus told the Pharisees who were greedy and covetous the following: ***"15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." (Luke 16:15 KJV)***

There are many things that you may like or you may desire, but you are not aware of that they are abominations in the sight of God. Therefore, be aware how to walk with God and be diligent to refrain from sin, and to do the things that would please Him, and He will be in return bless you and add to you, ***"33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33 KV)***

***E. <u>And they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel</u>:*** When the people of God do such things as the unbelievers or even worse things, then it will be time for God to stretch out His rod of discipline towards such people and take away from them what He had given them.

God did the following to discipline His people: ***"2 And it came to pass, that in the fifth year of king Rehoboam Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had transgressed against the LORD, 3 With twelve hundred chariots, and threescore thousand horsemen: and the people were without number that came with him out of Egypt; the Lubims, the Sukkiims, and the Ethiopians. 4 And he took the fenced cities which pertained to Judah, and came to Jerusalem." (2 Chronicles 12:2-4 KJV)*** The meaning of Shishak is **'greedy of fine linen'**. God will send someone greedy to discipline His people and His church to make them realize that they should not have spent of what God had given them on wrong things. Economic penalties, fines, bankruptcy, pandemics and theft are some of the ways used by God to discipline His church and His people who had squandered what He had given them in their pursuit of worldliness in the high places. ***"9 So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he took all: he carried away also the shields of gold which Solomon had made." (2 Chronicles 12:9 KJV)*** The people of God will face impoverishment when they end up doing abominations in the sight of God. This kind of poverty and impoverishment is caused by sin and is different from the other type of poverty. When King Rehoboam lost his treasures, he replaced the shields of gold that Shishak had taken with shields of bronze. This had nothing to do with good stewardship with regarding saving, but he was forced to replace them with bronze because of his impoverished state. Let us keep this point in our mind, that if we don't behave, then we will just have to wait for Shishak to come upon us and take away everything from us. But if we fear God and live for Him, then, even if we are attacked by enemies like Shishak, our treasures will be preserved by God whom we have revered and honored, by valuing the things that He had given us, valuing His Word and commands.

***4. Heed the explanation that God had sent you to explain the causes of the real situation that you are passing through: "5 Then came Shemaiah the prophet to Rehoboam, and to the princes of Judah, that were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, Ye have forsaken me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak." (2 Chronicles 12:5 KJV)*** Rehoboam and the people gathered with him in Jerusalem, and that represent the church in the New Testament; God sent them His message through Shemaiah the prophet who told them clearly, ***"Thus saith the LORD, Ye have forsaken me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak."*** * When you leave God, then God will leave you. * Therefore be thankful that God had placed you in His church and had put men of God to guide you and to direct you in the way that you should go. Those are the very people who will correct you when you err in your ways, therefore heed their instructions.

***5. Humble down and accept you had sinned: "6 Whereupon the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, The LORD is righteous." (2 Chronicles 12:6 KJV)*** God's wrath will turn away from you when you accept that what God did is the result of your very fault. Do not justify yourself and put excuses to clear your side. Rebelliousness and non willingness to humble down will not relief your life from the miserable situation. When Rehoboam humbled down God ameliorated the catastrophe, ***"7 And when the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance; and my wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak." (2 Chronicles 12:7 KJV)*** But as a consequence of their sins God allowed their treasures to be taken away, ***"8 Nevertheless they shall be his servants; that they may know my service, and the service of the kingdoms of the countries. 9 So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he took all: he carried away also the shields of gold which Solomon had made." (2 Chronicles 12:8-9 KJV)*** When you refuse to serve God in the prescribe way, the Lord will turn you to your enemies, so that you can discover by yourselves what is the value of serving God, than serving the people. Therefore, be thankful to God for every opportunity of ministry would be entrusted to you. Serve God diligently, and in the prescribed way as you had been instructed by God's church.

***6. Repent and not only humble down:*** Rehoboam and the people with him they humbled before God and accepted their fault but they did not repent. They did not change their minds to amend their ways. ***"8 Nevertheless they shall be his servants; that they may know my service, and the service of the kingdoms of the countries." (2 Chronicles 12:8 KJV)*** The Lord also allowed them to be under the bondage of Shishak because they were not deciding to give up their own sins and wrong ways of life. If they would have repented the Lord would not allow them to be enslaved and controlled by a greedy person or greedy people. This is a kind of backsliding where you find humility mixed with non willingness to amend in their wrong ways of life and living. Externally things will go well but the people were still in bondage, and have no relief because they have no repentance. ***"12 And when he humbled himself, the wrath of the LORD turned from him, that he would not destroy him altogether: and also in Judah things went well." (2 Chronicles 12:12 KJV)*** The incident of Shishak happened on the fifth year of King Rehoboam reign but he continued his life without radical change or repentance till he died: ***"13 So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem, and reigned: for Rehoboam was one and forty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess." (2 Chronicles 12:13 KJV)*** God does not like a lukewarm Christian who lives and meddles with sin, ***"16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. 17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: 18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see." (Revelation 3:16-18 KJV)*** God does not like a lukewarm Christian because they will affect the testimony of His church as Rehoboam and the people with him affected the testimony of Jerusalem.

***7. Avoid the marriages with non believer because that could be the cause of persistence backsliding:*** The mother of Rehoboam was an Ammonitess and that could be the factor contributed to his persistence in backsliding, ***"13 So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem, and reigned: for Rehoboam was one and forty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess." (2 Chronicles 12:13 KJV)*** Don't marry non believer, and don't marry what God had not prepared for you. Wait upon God and He will give you the suitable helper that meets for you.

***8. Refrain from doing evil: "14 And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD." (2 Chronicles 12:14 KJV)*** Avoid all kinds of evil and sins, ***"22 Abstain from all appearance of evil." (1 Thessalonians 5:22 KJV)***

***9. Set your heart to seek the Lord: "14 And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD." (2 Chronicles 12:14 KJV)*** Rehoboam was instructed with Shemaiah the prophet, and with Iddo the seer, but he himself did not seek the Lord and discover the truth and the ways of God by himself. People who only listen to God's Word, they will not be convinced much to do unless they discover the truth by themselves, and for this reason they need to set their hearts to seek God. You need to seek God yourself, to see the wonders in His Word, so you can see clearly your sins, so you can turn to God in repentance and start to serve Him in an ordained way. Seeking the truth will put infront of you the real mandates to serve God and will bring you into full dedication unto Him.

***10. Always Keep seeking God and serve Him wholeheartedly and He will deliver you from all your enemies:*** Rehoboam was attacked by Shishak, and as we explained earlier the meaning of Shishak is **'greedy of fine linen'**. So around you are greedy people to take advantage of you. Another enemy infront of Rehoboam was Jeroboam, ***"15 And there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually." (2 Chronicles 12:15 KJV)*** And the meaning of Jeroboam is **'the people will contend'** or **'the people will fight'**. So around you also are peoples who are used by devil to fight against you. And the meaning of Rehoboam is **'a people has enlarged'**. So God had called you to bless you and enlarge you therefore you need to continue to seek Him. Therefore continue to seek Him, who will protect you from all your enemies. Seeking God will put you in the center of God's will and will help you to be always victorious in fighting your battles against the devil our enemy.

***11. Let your life be transparent to those who leads you in the Lord: "15 Now the acts of Rehoboam, first and last, are they not written in the book of Shemaiah the prophet, and of Iddo the seer concerning genealogies?" (2 Chronicles 12:15 KJV)*** Rehoboam was guided spiritually by Shemaiah the prophet and by Iddo the seer. Shemaiah means **'heard by Jehovah'**, and Iddo means **'His witness'**. Therefore surround yourself with such kind of dedicated people who fear God and walk in His ways, and who can help you and gives you hand of guidance when you are in need.

***12. Always put in your mind that you need to prepare the next generation to be ready to lead after you when your season had finished: "16 And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David: and Abijah his son reigned in his stead." (2 Chronicles 12:16 KJV)*** Abiam Abiah or Abijah means **'Jehovah is (my) father'**. Always put in your mind that

you need to prepare the next generation to be ready to lead after your departure when your season had finished.

***My dear and beloved: "19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." (Revelation 3:19 KJV)*** God is rebuking you because He loves you and He had called you to spend eternity with Him. Therefore, be zealous and repent. Accept the discipline and the correction of God and start to seek His Word to discover the truth. Train yourself to love the truth and to live it and to build your life on it, so that His presence, His blessings, and His reward shall be upon you, ***"20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. 22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." (Revelation 3:20-22 KJV)***

***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 Word that had opened my eyes to see the truth. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the rebukes, the corrections and the admonishments we received in this message. Lord thank you for all the discipline that you laid on me to correct me.*

*Come now to God confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your pride, arrogance and lack of humility. Confess and renounce your laziness and procrastination in doing the work of God. Confess and renounce your worldliness, your greed and your love for material things. Confess and renounce your idols and all what you love more than God's Word. Confess and renounce your bad stewardship and your wrong uses of your resources. Confess and renounce doing your own will and not the plan nor the will of God. Confess and renounce your lack of seeking God and His will and plan in your life. Confess and renounce your marriage with a non believer. Confess and renounce you allow your children to do ungodly practices. Confess and renounce your lack of the fear of God. Confess and renounce your immoralities, anger, your un-forgiveness to others, your fights and your quarrels. Confess and renounce your unfaithfulness and your non willingness to serve God and respond to His call. Confess and renounce your bad testimony and your bad example to others. Confess and renounce you are not transparent with the church and the church leaders. Confess and renounce your lack of prayers and reading God's Word. Confess and renounce your yoke with the Media, news and evil doers. Lord I humble myself before you, and accept my following faults and sins_____. Lord forgive me and cleanse me, I repent of the following sins _____.*

*Lord I commit myself to seek you and the truth of your Word, and to apply all the principles of this message in my life to go forward working with your plan of restoration. Lord I trust you that you will strengthen me and you will be providing for all my needs. Lord I commit myself to serve you diligently, to be consistent and persistent, and to obey all of what you instructed me in this message of yours. Lord as I will obey you I pray that you will keep all my good achievements for you.*

*Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives unto you, Lord as they repented, restore them back to the good plans that you have for them, and help them in their lives and ministry. Lord give them strength and good health to continue to serve you. Lord provide all their needs and fill them with the Holy Ghost and give them the spiritual gifts that they need in their service unto you.*

*Lord bless us as your church and bestow on us the spiritual gifts that we need to go on and make disciples of all nations. Lord enable us to evangelize and to reach the lost and new areas with the gospel of Jesus. Lord help us to plant more Bible studies and congregation for the church, and to raise up more disciples to serve you. Lord continue to protect us and provide all our needs. Lord we pray for more people to be water baptized and more disciples to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord take the message and spread it to reach the rest of the church congregations, workers, members and the lost souls. Lord prepare us for your coming to be ready to go with you when you come to take 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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