

Asa – The success of Seeking The Lord

*And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded: 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 Chron. 15:1, 2)*

I. The “If” Factors

1. God gives us choices that determine our destinies. Many who adhere to deterministic theology falsely teach that all that happens in our lives, be it good or bad is God's will. While we cannot determine all that happens in our lives, God has given us choices that will allow for His blessing in our lives or His lack of blessing.
2. In the above passage we see both a promise and a warning. The promise for seeking the Lord is that you will find Him. Seeking God is a sign of faith and He rewards those who diligently seek Him.
 - a) Heb. 11:6
3. In the passage there is also the warning concerning what happens when we fail to seek the Lord; i.e. Lose our trust in Him and begin to trust in other things.
 - a) You will find that Asa at one time claimed the promise but later in his life failed to heed the warning.

II. Asa – A Man of Faith

1. Asa lived zealously for the Lord
2. ***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. So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled.** (2 Chron. 14:11, 12)*
3. The “so” in this passage reveals that this was not simply a random act of the Lord. The 'so' here teaches us that God did this in response to something. The previous verse tells us what God did this in response to: “*And Asa cried unto the LORD his God.*” It was due to Asa crying out to the Lord for help that brought him the help that he needed.
4. God does things for His people only when they take the initiative and act in faith upon His Word through prayer. The person who waits for God to do something without asking Him to do it will never see anything done.

III. Much of our destiny depends on what we do with God and His promises.

1. We see in Asa's story what I call the “if-then” factor. If we obey God then we get the promised blessings. If we don't then we don't.
2. *And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded: 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 Chron. 15:1, 2)*
3. This principle found in the prophecy given to Asa repudiates the hyper-sovereignty teaching that man has nothing to do with his destiny and that god blesses (or fails to bless) solely on a sovereign whim.

IV. Asa begins to backslide

1. Asa began to lose trust in God and began to put his trust in men. Asa was given a prophecy concerning this:
2. *And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, **Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand.** Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, **because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand.** For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars (2 Chron. 16:7-9)*
3. From this prophecy we learn yet another principle concerning prayer. Some people teach that “God ordains all events and all the means toward such events. He ordains the prayer and the one praying as well as the event.”
4. Yet, the prophecy to Asa repudiates such a thought. God is looking for people that he can work through and we must yield ourselves in faithful trust unto Him (Dan. 11:32).

V. Asa's downhill spiral costs him his life.

1. Asa started out as a man of faith and prayer but later became a doubter and prayerless man.
2. *And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians. And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign. (2 Chron. 16:12, 13)*
3. The principle here undergirds our earlier point: God needs you and I to pray. If we fail to pray, we will not get. James said we have not because we ask not (James 4:2).
4. The failure to receive cannot be blamed on God but on our failure to seek the Lord. Asa's trust in men was so strong that he would not bother to seek the Lord. This costed him his life. Lack of prayer can bring death to a ministry, a career, a marriage, etc.

Conclusion: In Asa we see how faith and prayer can change destinies and accomplish great victories for Christ. We also see from his life how unbelief which leads to a lack of prayer can hinder God from doing great things in our lives. Let us learn from both the successes and failures of Asa: follow what made him successful and avoid what caused him to fail.