

# ATTAINING SPIRITUAL COMPLETION: THE LIFE OF ASA PART III

## 2 Chronicles 15:9-19

<sup>9</sup>Then Asa called together all the people of Judah and Benjamin, along with the people of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who had settled among them. Many had moved to Judah during Asa's reign when they saw that the LORD his God was with him. <sup>10</sup>The people gathered at Jerusalem in late spring, during the fifteenth year of Asa's reign. <sup>11</sup>On that day they sacrificed to the LORD some of the animals they had taken as plunder in the battle—seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep and goats. <sup>12</sup>Then they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD, the God of their ancestors, with all their heart and soul. <sup>13</sup>They agreed that anyone who refused to seek the LORD, the God of Israel, would be put to death—whether young or old, man or woman. <sup>14</sup>They shouted out their oath of loyalty to the LORD with trumpets blaring and horns sounding. <sup>15</sup>All were happy about this covenant, for they had entered into it with all their hearts. Eagerly they sought after God, and they found him. And the LORD gave them rest from their enemies on every side.

<sup>16</sup>King Asa even deposed his grandmother Maacah from her position as queen mother because she had made an obscene Asherah pole. He cut down the pole, broke it up, and burned it in the Kidron Valley. <sup>17</sup>Although the pagan shrines were not completely removed from Israel, Asa remained fully committed to the LORD throughout his life. <sup>18</sup>He brought into the Temple of God the silver and gold and the utensils that he and his father had dedicated. <sup>19</sup>So there was no more war until the thirty-fifth year of Asa's reign.

We have been looking at the significance of attaining spiritual completion in our lives. God has a specific purpose in each of our lives that he desires for us to fulfill. We have been studying this theme in the context of the life of Asa, King of Judah (2 Chronicles 14—16). We have learned that attaining spiritual completion demands accomplishing what is pleasurable in the eyes of the Lord. (2 Chronicles 14:1-2). This includes actively identifying what sins in our lives separate us from having a righteous relationship with God and then aggressively putting an end to these sinful practices. (2 Chronicles 14:3, 5) In attaining spiritual completion, it is also important to instruct one another in the ways of the Lord continually. (2 Chronicles 14:4) If we are faithful in finishing well the calling of God upon our lives, he will bless us with peace and prosperity.

In 2 Chronicles 15 we continue the theme of spiritual completion by understanding what our responsibilities are when we do experience God's blessings upon our lives. We learn that even in good times God will constantly awaken us not to be spiritual lazy, but to complete his mission here on earth. (verses 1-7) The reason for this is that when we can trust God in the best of times, we will develop a spiritual habit of committing to him in the most difficult of times (verses 3-6) God desires us to be radically transformed not only in the worst of times, but also in the best of times (verse 8). We complete the mission of God in all seasons of life.

We are continuing our study on spiritual completion by looking at the next section of 2 Chronicles 15, starting in verse 9 till verse 19. Because of the prophet Azariah's stern words, Asa calls the community of faith together to worship the almighty God. (verse 9)

1. Completing God's purpose in our lives includes **drawing people back to God.**

This is an important spiritual concept when it comes to fulfilling the purpose of God. The direction we look to is to bring all people towards the glory of the Lord. Note that it is King Asa's responsibility to gather all his people together to worship the Lord. (v. 9) It is also our responsibility in our time today. We, as the church of God, are set apart to lead stray and lost people back to the presence of God in worship. We should never neglect this position.

2. In fact, when we are accomplishing God's purpose, the world will **acknowledge the authority of the Lord**.

Observe that many people moved to Judah because God was with Asa always. (v. 9) A blessed outcome when you choose to attain spiritual completion is that people on the outskirts of God's kingdom will be drawn to his loving sovereignty. Those seeking for hope cannot deny the existence of God when they observe his presence in your life! That is what they want in their lives as well.

This is actually a natural tendency for a created being to draw close to his Creator because that is how we are designed to be. God conceived us to have a relationship with him. Hence:

3. To complete God's purpose involves **demonstrating the significance of relationship** with the Lord. (vv. 11-15)

What the people of Judah did was to reestablish their covenant with their Creator God. A covenant is a pledge, a vow made by the people to seek after the Lord always. This reinforces their relationship with the Divine. Worship sculpts the connection between God and humans. Results of such a covenant with God will produce at least two things:

- a. When you seek after the Lord, you will find him! (v. 15)
- b. The Lord will protect you from your enemies! (v. 15)

As we now discover, attaining spiritual completion testifies to the holy and righteous relationship between God and us. Therefore:

4. **Even what is most precious in your life** must be demolished if it spiritually harms your completion of God's purpose.

Asa separated from his grandmother because she chose not to follow God wholeheartedly. (v. 16) There are many things in our lives, close personal things, that pull us away from such a holy relationship with God. It could be our careers, our material toys, our selfish dreams, maybe even a close family member. What we learn in Asa's life is that no matter how precious it is, anyone or anything that hinders us from achieving spiritual completion is to be discard and demolished. There is no room for such sinful events in our lives.

In fact, this last point will play a negative role in the life of Asa, which will see in 2 Chronicles 16. The hint we have here is in chapter 15, verse 17: Asa fails to complete God's mission by neglecting to remove all of the pagan shrines from the land. We will next look at the consequences of such a failure.

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