



Hebrews Part 5: Asa

Outline and Reflection

The writer of Hebrews gave us a wonderful list of people and stories so that the Hebrew people might be encouraged in their faith. We pray that you can be encouraged in your story at this time of history by the heroes of faith as well.

"Who we really are is who we are in our heart."

Sally Clarkson

Morality isn't just about doing good, but about loving goodness. From the love of goodness will come the doing of goodness.

Do you live by guilt of performing for God? Or do you really LOVE God?

Can you view God as someone who still loves you when you fail? If not, try meditating on some scriptures of God's love. Ideas: Psalm 86:15, Zephaniah 3:17, John 15:9-17, Romans 8:37-39

We need to be continually learning from God's wisdom and His stories so when people need an answer to their struggles or doubts, we have God's wisdom through scripture that we can pass on to them.

How can you learn more from God's wisdom and stories? Are you seeking to grow in this area?

The stories of the Kings are contained in the books I Samuel, II Samuel, I Chronicles and II Chronicles. There are many examples of faithful kings and unfaithful kings. One king who started faithfully was Asa.

During the period that Asa came to power, what was happening with the people and their faith? What did he do to bring change to his time in history?

At one time in his life, Asa had a huge army come against him. (Read II Chronicles chapters 14, 15 and 16 for the whole story of what Asa did and how God reacted.)

"All Judah rejoiced concerning the oath, for they had sworn with their whole heart and had sought Him earnestly, and He let them find Him. So the Lord gave them rest on every side."

II Chronicles 15:15

What trials are you wading through? Are you seeking God earnestly in the midst of them? How can you place your eyes more firmly on the Lord and His promises for your life?

We live in a battleground. We can choose to worry or we can let the Lord be our strength. Asa didn't just live by the rules of right and wrong, he loved goodness and he loved God and his behavior was a natural outpouring of that love.

But later...

Asa became lax in his trust of God and His ways.

Have you ever experienced this? Maybe especially after a time of seeing God move mightily on your behalf? *“Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubim an immense army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the Lord, He delivered them into your hand.” II Chronicles 16:8*

“For the eyes of Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars.” II Chronicles 16:9

Is your heart completely His? When we “act foolishly”, we will “have wars.” Will you turn your heart toward God? He will be faithful to “strongly support” you.

It's about your heart, not your performance. If we seek Him as Asa did early in his life, He will give us rest and He will fight our battles.

Extra Scriptures to Meditate On

Let His word dwell in you deeply. Maybe choose one verse from this study to memorize this week. Write it where you will see it so that you can pause and recite it.

Asa did good and right in the sight of the Lord his God. II Chronicles 14:2

Then Asa called to the Lord his God and said, “Lord , there is no one besides You to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O Lord our God, for we trust in You, and in Your name have come against this multitude. O Lord , You are our God; let not man prevail against You. II Chronicles 14:11

Examine me, O Lord and try me;
Test my mind and my heart. Psalm 26:2

The Lord is my strength and my shield;
My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped;
Therefore my heart exults,
And with my song I shall thank Him. Psalm 28:7