

"If we were to honestly lay our hearts before the Lord, I believe he would be more interested in the parts we are holding back than the parts we have already given. Like all relationships, God wants a full commitment. In the same way your wife appreciates when you buy her flowers but would much rather you stop looking at porn, God wants to get a hold of the things we hold back." – Jon Tyson

"In essence, the rich young man is telling Jesus: 'I have given up almost everything for God. What more must I do?' Jesus' answer is simple and direct: 'Give up the rest!'"

– Ronald Rolheiser

2 Chronicles 14:2-4

2 Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God. 3 He removed the foreign altars and the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. 4 He commanded Judah to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, and to obey his laws and commands.

2 Chronicles 14:9

Zerah the Cushite marched out against them with an army of thousands upon thousands...

2 Chronicles 14:11

Then Asa called to the LORD his God and said, "LORD, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this vast army. LORD, you are our God; do not let mere mortals prevail against you."



Asa chooses dependence upon God over the accomplishments of man.

For 36 years, this is how King Asa led the Israelites—seeking God, prioritizing His presence, calling out to the Lord...and then another neighboring army threatens them...

2 Chronicles 16:2-3

2 Asa then took the silver and gold out of the treasuries of the LORD's temple and of his own palace and sent it to Ben-Hadad king of Aram, who was ruling in Damascus 3 "Let there be a treaty between me and you," he said, "as there was between my father and your father. See, I am sending you silver and gold. Now break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so he will withdraw from me."

2 Chronicles 16:7-8

7 At that time Hanani the seer [prophet] came to Asa king of Judah and said to him: "Because you relied on the king of Aram and not on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand. 8 Were not the Cushites and Libyans a mighty army with great numbers of chariots and horsemen? Yet when you relied on the LORD, he delivered them into your hand."

rely = shaan = to lean upon, to trust for support

For 36 years, Asa looked to the Lord and then...

He forms a treaty with Aram, tosses Hanani in prison, & starts brutally oppressing the people.



2 Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war."

➤ **Self is a poor savior and an empty god.**

When SELF is pressured to deliver in ways it was never intended, this can leave you anxious, stressed, and exhausted.

Self-help isn't overly helpful when SELF is the core of what needs help!

➤ **Self is to be consecrated, not relied upon.**

The "daily-ness" of surrender—Asa had a three decade history of consecration and yet his final legacy was marked with self-reliance.

Which is why Jesus would say...

Matthew 16:24-25

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."

"Reality is what you can count on." – Dallas Willard