

ELIMINATE IDOLS

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It is essential to eliminate all idols in our life and place our trust on God every day. An idol could be anything or anyone that could be depended upon for anything that would be needed or desired. We need to be sure all idols are eliminated and our faith and trust is in the One who gave His life for us.

Placing our trust in God through Jesus Christ His Son for our health, healing, protection, provisions, correcting wrongs, being righteous in His sight, and for eternal life is critical, because God has promised to do those things for us and it would be utter rebellion if we would place our trust on anyone or anything else besides God. He will not share that trust with anyone or anything else—AV Exodus 20:5 *“for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God.”*

An idol is something false to trust in, something to look up to, something one would think they would always want to have with them. It doesn't always have to be an obvious image to show that it is an idol, such as the golden calf that Aaron made for the children of Israel, when Moses was in the mount for forty days and forty nights.

Exodus 32:2-3, *“And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me. And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.”*

Would it have been sinless for the children of Israel to say, after willingly giving of their gold for the golden calf, “I will under no circumstance trust in the golden calf that Aaron had made”? The children of Israel should have turned aside and said they will have nothing to do with it and not give their gold if they didn't want to have anything to do with idol worship. Should we not turn aside and not sign up, or willingly give of our money to support any Idol that the world would trust in?

God requires that we believe in His Son and trust on the Blood He shed for us, because He sent His Son to do that for us John 6:29, *“Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”*

That is the only way God can convert our heart to one that is willing to trust Him—not trust some thing, some plan, or some one, else. When we believe on the resurrection power of Christ, and get rid of false places of trust, the Holy Spirit inspires us to trust on God alone.

Concerning any faith issue, we must be sure where or on whom we have placed our dependence and not place ourselves in a position where there would be something to fall back on if something would happen accidentally. We must hold firm to this attitude of faith in God and continue to depend on Him for everything.

Keeping our faith and trust on God is more important now than it ever was, because Satan has deceived so many to say they trust God, but at the same time do not obey or follow the Word of God. With a total trust in God by faith, through the inspiration of His Holy Spirit, is the foundation of a true Christian life.

Bible examples show the different results received by those who maintained a trusting faith on God, and with those who had no faith in God. These real-life examples remind us that it is possible to trust on God for a time, but to later leave that position of trust, and take an attitude of unbelief. These examples also reveal the serious results of accepting false teaching and unscriptural advice.

The apostle reminded us that God brought the Israelites through the Red Sea by faith, and He fed them with food from heaven. 1 Corinthians 10:4-8 NIV *"They drank from the spiritual Rock that accompanied them, and that Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert.*

"Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: 'The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry.'" These serious warnings reveal how important it is to put our trust only on God and not have any images in our life.

WEY Hebrews 2:1-3 *"For this reason we ought to pay the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, for fear we should drift away from them. For if the message delivered through angels proved to be true, and every transgression and act of disobedience met with just retribution, how shall *we* escape if we are indifferent to a salvation as great as that now offered to us?"*

King Asa began right and was trusting God right for a time; he was following God's Word. NKJV 2 Chronicles 14:2-3 *"Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God, for he removed the altars of the foreign gods and the high places, and broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images."*

He eliminated the idols and removed the false places of trust for the people in Judah, just as we are to actively remove any idol or false place of trust in our own life. King Asa 4 *“commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandment.”*

Even though the king began right, and he advised his people to live right by following the Word of God, in his later years he changed his attitude and no longer trusted God. His previous advice to the people was that they should trust God alone, instead of trusting the false gods of their fathers.

These warnings are given, because Satan can deceive anyone to place their trust on the wrong plan, wrong power, or wrong anything, anything one could place their trust in. Everyone has that choice: trust on the power of God, or trust on some plan of the world.

Every worldly way of avenging wrongs with legal action; every medical plan for seeking help from medication; every financial plan of depending on government assistance; every protection plan by relying on guns, alarms, and insurance coverage; and every other false place of trust the world offers, are all idols and tests of our faith to show what we believe and who we trust. Having a false place of trust is idolatry, the serious sin of unbelief. This wrong attitude toward God must be corrected, and the idols removed from our heart, as the king removed the idols from Judah.

Unbelief toward God is a very serious sin, because it is not believing what the Atonement Blood of His Son has accomplished. That is the greatest coverage anyone could have. His Blood was shed to heal us, to protect us, to avenge our wrongs, and to provide our needs on a daily basis. The apostle said that unbelief was as serious as idol worship, because anyone who trusts God in believing faith, would have nothing in common with those who do not trust.

AV 2 Corinthians 6:16-17 *“What agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people Leviticus 26:12. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord.”*

God will bless anyone who is willing to trust Him in faith. AV Matthew 19:29 *“Every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands for my name's sake, shall receive a hundred-fold, and shall inherit everlasting life.”* Eliminating false places of trust, results in many blessings from above, and eternal life as a final reward.

NKJV 2 Chronicles 14:2 *“Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God,”* by removing false places of trust in Judah. Since he sought God and followed His will, KJV

2 Chronicles 14:6 *“the LORD had given him rest”*—instead of constant war like his father had. As long as King Asa trusted God, he enjoyed peace—like the peace Adam and Eve enjoyed before they sinned by rejecting the Word of the Lord, and accepting the lie of the devil.

Several years later, King Asa met with a faith test—just as everyone else will be tested on faith to see if their trust is on God or some human plan or power as James 1:12. Tells us, *“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”*

Then an Ethiopian army, under Commander Zerah, attacked Judah. King Asa could not defend the land against a military force of that size, so this time, he chose to trust God—as anyone can choose to trust God when the enemy attacks.

Before going into battle, King Asa prayed 2 Chronicles 14:11-12 NIV *“LORD, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely [rest AV; trust NLT] on you, and in your name we have come against this vast army. O LORD, you are our God; do not let man prevail against you.”* The king was trusting God, so vs. 12 *“The LORD struck down the Cushites before Asa and Judah,”* and the Ethiopians fled.

If we take that same attitude of faith and trust on God, no army or enemy could prevail against us. God is looking world-wide for hearts that are willing to believe and trust Him. AV 2 Chronicles 16:9 *“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 [loyal to Him NKJV].”*

Whether it be a raging furnace, a den of lions, a military force, or someone against God’s full Truth, God’s power will prevail, if we will believe and trust Him in faith. NIV Romans 8:31-34 *“If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”*

“Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”

When the king trusted on God, he defeated a huge army. After the battle 2 Chronicles 15:1-2 NIV, *“The Spirit of God came upon Azariah son of Oded. He went out to meet Asa and said to him, ‘Listen to me, Asa and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.’”* If the king had chosen to trust in anything or anyone other than God, the Lord could not have helped him.

The prophet added 2 Chronicles 15:3-5 NIV *“For a long time Israel was without the true God, without a priest to teach and without the law. But in their distress [trouble AV] they turned to the LORD, the God of Israel, and sought him, and he was found by them. In those days it was not safe to travel about, for all the inhabitants of the lands were in great turmoil.”*

That is the way it is with us today, it would not be safe to leave our house either, because of the increase of violent assaults and criminal activity, if God was not protecting us. Millions today have forsaken the Lord and think they will find peace and happiness in their own efforts.

Adam and Eve tried to find happiness and contentment in their own way—and after 6,000 years of searching, the world is further away from finding true peace than ever. The prophet encouraged the king 2 Chronicles 15:7 NIV, *“be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.”*

God’s Word encourages us to place our trust on the resurrection power of Christ—and we will be rewarded with spiritual blessings, victories, healing, and answers to prayer. The king was inspired and vs.8 *“removed the detestable idols from the whole land of Judah and Benjamin.”*

King Asa believed God’s prophet, so he acted in faith and got rid of the idols. The land of Judah enjoyed peace and safety for over 30 years because the people repented, and put their trust on God.

We can act on that same faith in God—eliminating idols in our life, so God can reward us—because He cannot change, Malachi 3:6; *“For I am the LORD, I change not;”*

James 1:17, *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”* Whatever we are going through, if we will place our trust on the Lord, we will enjoy the same peace, safety, and divine blessings.

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