

Real Trust on God Must Replace Idols in Life

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It is critical for eternal life that idols are gotten rid of and removed from our heart, so that each one is placing our trust on God every day, for our good health, depending on God alone for healing for ourselves and families; for our promised protection from God; as well as for our daily provisions to be supplied through our trust on God's many promises to provide for our needs; and, to allow God to correct wrongs and injustices that we may be required to experience in our pathway of faith. All these things are part of our being made Righteous in God's sight, because God promised to do those things for us, and He will not share that place of trust with anyone or anything else. (Exodus 20:5) "for I the LORD thy God, am a 'jealous God'."

With regard to any faith issue on our part, we must be sure where or on whom we have placed our dependence and our trust to have that issue resolved; whether that be for the supply of a temporary need or supply of ongoing daily needs; or, for healing that is needed from an affliction (all of which come from Satan), but, the power of Jesus Christ's 'resurrection to life' has permanently defeated Satan's power forever (God's Word tells us), so we are only to make our claim on the power of Jesus' Name for our deliverance. Our attitude of faith in God's Promises and on power of Jesus' Blood and 'resurrection to Life' must be maintained as we continue to depend on Him for everything.

To keep our faith and our trust on God alone is more important than ever because Satan has deceived so many people to say they trust God, but at the same time they are not obeying nor following the Word of God. Actively trusting God in faith, through the inspiration of His 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, with those who did not trust God. These real-life examples remind us that it is possible to trust on God for a time, but to then later leave that position of trust, and take an attitude of unbelief just like unbelievers in the world. These examples also reveal the serious results of accepting unscriptural advice, and false teaching and deceptive doctrine. (Rom.16:17-18) "But

I beseech you, brethren, to keep a watch on those who are causing the divisions among you, and are leading others into sin, in defiance of the instruction which you have received; and habitually to shun them.
¹⁸ For men of that stamp are not bondservants of Christ our Lord but are slaves to their own appetites; and by their plausible words and their flattery they utterly deceive the minds of the simple."

The apostle reminded us that God brought the Israelites through the Red Sea by faith, and He fed them with food from heaven. (1Cor.10:4-8) "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 [or lust after] 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 warnings reveal how important it is to put our trust only on God.) (Hebr.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?"

Old Testament examples give us timely warnings and admonitions, as they reveal the contrast of the results for those who (by their enduring in the faith), stayed committed to God=s Word which never changes,... and, what the results were for those who did not stay 'committed in faith'.

King Asa began right, and he was trusting God right for a time, as he was following God's Word (and not trusting on other things and people which would prove to be idols in his life). (2 Chron.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 false place of trust in our own life (which will also affect the lives of our children, for whom we are responsible to teach and train them to trust only on God's Power and Promise. King Asa "commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandment."

Even though that 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 he 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, a wrong power, or wrong anything (like pills and prescriptions); or (company pensions and retirement funds like social security, or Government provided payments) Everyone has that choice, to trust on the power of God, or to trust on some of man's plans of the unbelievers of the world.

Every worldly way of avenging wrongs with legal action; every medical plan for seeking help from medication and drugs; every financial plan of depending on government assistance; all human plans for protection via relying on guns, security gates and bars, and a multitude of insurance coverage plans; and every other false place of trust that the world has to offer, are all(each one of them) 'tests of our faith' to truly reveal what we are really believing and depending on, and who we are truly trusting on. Our having such a false place of trust would be that serious 'sin of unbelief', which is a wrong attitude in our heart toward God, and it must be corrected and removed from our heart. [Satan's idols and the Holy Spirit of God cannot share space in our heart,] the idols must be removed, just as that king of old removed the idols from the land of Judah, so the Israelites could not follow them. [We must trust on God to remove those false places

of trust from our heart, so that we cannot trust on them and jeopardize our eternal interests and welfare,]

Unbelief toward God is a serious sin because it is not believing on what the Atonement Blood of God's Son has accomplished, to heal our body, to protect us and family and other things, to avenge our wrongs for us, and to provide our needs on a daily basis. The apostle said that unbelief was as serious as idol-worship because anyone who is trusting God in believing faith, would have nothing in common with those who do not.

(2 Cor.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 requires that we believe in His Son and trust on the Blood He shed for us, because He sent Him to do that for us (John 6:29). It is the only way God can convert our heart, to become one that is willing to trust Him, not trust on some thing, on some plan, or someone else. When we believe on the resurrection power of Christ, and (by God's grace) get rid of false 'places of trust', the Holy Spirit will then inspire us on how to trust on God alone.

God's blessing will be on anyone who is willing to trust Him in faith. (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' will result in many blessings from above, and with eternal life as a final reward.

(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 the land of Judah. Since Asa sought God and followed His will, (2 Chron.14:6) says, "*the LORD had given him rest*", instead of constant war (like his father had, had. As long as King Asa was trusting on 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 will be 'tested on faith issues' to see if our trust is on God or not). (James 1:12-16) "*Blessed is he who patiently endures trials; for when he has stood the test, he will gain the victor's crown—even the crown of Life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*" (So) "*Let no one say when passing through trial "My temptation is from God;" for God is incapable of being tempted to do evil, and He Himself tempts no one. But when a man is tempted, it is his own passions that carry him away and serve as a bait. Then the passion conceives, and becomes the parent of sin; and sin, when fully matured, gives birth to death. Do not be deceived, my dearly loved brethren.*"

[Therefore, it is most important that we should trust on God to remove all hidden idols from our heart and mind, so that we are not to be deceived by temptations to seek out those false things and places of trust, instead of us trusting on our God Who has Promised, and is waiting to fulfill for us, those Promises of His to be claimed.

In King Asa's case, an Ethiopian army, under Commander Zerah, had attacked Judah. The king could not defend the land against a military force of that size (said to be of a million men), so this time, Asa chose to trust God, as anyone of us can also choose to trust God when the enemy (Satan or his agents) attacks us in some way.

Before going into battle, King Asa turned to God in prayer (2 Chron.14:11-12) "LORD, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely (means to rest our trust) 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 on God, so ()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 nor any enemy could prevail against us. God is looking world-wide for the hearts that are willing to believe and trust Him. (2 Chron.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." (means loyal to Him in our faith, not to have some idol in our heart to be trusted and depended on.)

Regardless of whether it be a raging furnace, a den of lions, a military force, or a prosecuting attorney, God's power will prevail, if we will believe and trust Him in faith. (Rom.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 that king had placed his trust on God, he defeated a huge army. After the battle (2 Chron.15:1-2), "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 Chron.15:3-5) "For a long time Israel was without the true God, without a priest to teach and without the law. But in their distress [their trouble] 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."

If we were not claiming God's promised Protection, then without Him protecting us it would not be safe to leave our house today. We must claim God's divine protective shield in real faith, to be over and around us and loved ones and others, because the increase of violent assaults and criminal activity is increasing day by day. Millions of people today have forsaken the Lord, they don't look to Him alone (their unseen God) to protect and provide, as their trust is not on Him while they are trusting and depending on other people and things to protect them, (even when many times they are 'testing the Lord' to protect them when they voluntarily put their life in danger so they do not have His protection over them. (Matt.4:7) "Again it is

written," replied Jesus, " 'THOU SHALT NOT PUT THE LORD THY GOD TO THE PROOF.' " People have become further away from God than ever, so they have no faith in Him, and do not trust Him for anything.

Adam and Eve tried to find happiness and contentment in their own way, and after 6,000 years of the people of the world's searching, the world is further away from finding true peace than it ever was. The prophet encouraged that king of old (2 Chron.5:7) "*be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.*" (In the times of the Old Testament, the people had to try to be strong in their own strength),

God's Word encourages us today, to place our trust on the resurrection power of Christ (via a sincere commitment to trust only on Him), and we will be rewarded with spiritual strength to claim and receive God's blessings and be contented with the place in life that He created and intends for us. Also, to receive victories from Him over temptations that are permitted for us to learn from, and to receive healing through His divine power alone, as well as all other answers to our many and various Scriptural prayers. That king was inspired to understand (as we can also be inspired) and he "*removed the detestable idols from the whole land of Judah and Benjamin.*"

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

We can act on that same faith in God, and eliminate the idols that are in our life, so God can reward us, because God cannot change (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17). Whatever we are going through, if we will make our decision final to place our trust on the Lord, we will enjoy the same peace, safety, and divine blessings that His Word provides for us to claim and receive from Him.

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SOME MAIN POINTS OF THE MESSAGE:

We are to trust God to remove every idolatrous false place of trust from our heart, since Bible examples show the different results received by those who maintained a trusting faith on God, with those who did not trust God. Those 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 (just like unbelievers in the world). These examples also reveal the serious results of accepting unscriptural advice, and false teaching and deceptive doctrine. (Rom.16:17) "But I beseech you, brethren, to keep a watch on those who are causing the divisions among you, and are leading others into sin, in defiance of the instruction which you have received; and habitually to shun them.

Things and events that took place in King Asa's life and reign as king of Judah are given, and emphasized for us to be able to fully understand how God's blessings are bestowed upon us when we are in the center of God's will, and within His plan of trust of trust intended for each one of us to follow in our life, (and for us to realize that it can determine our preparation for an eternal life destination) (which is to come later).

The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia