



## **CrossRoads Notes:**

Turn Your Bibles to 2 Chronicles 15:2

**Title: Holy Spirit Come Home**

**Theme: Praying for a True Revival in the Church**

**Series: Grasping the Foundational Truths of Prayer**

“...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.” (2 Chronicles 15:2)

**Introduction:** *2 Chronicles chapters 14-16 record very powerful truths that must be taken notice of by the Body of Christ if she is going to enjoy God’s presence and power in His work.*

**Proposition:** *I would propose to you that the history revealed in 2 Chronicles 14-16 gives a lesson on revival (Thru the Bible) and shows us the danger of not surrendering to God’s Word and perfect will. The forty-one year reign of King Asa, shows us the success that can be enjoyed by walking in step with the Holy Spirit as He reveals the truths of God’s Word to us. Asa’s life also reflects the consequences of letting the spiritual heart grow cold to the Word of the Lord.*

**Interrogative Sentence:** How did King Asa approach the Lord? What are the benefits and warnings?

**Transitional Sentence:** *The first step to enjoying and experiencing all that God has for His church is to approach the Lord in heartfelt prayer. (2 Chronicles 14:11)*

*(2 Chronicle 14:2) (2 Chronicles 14:4) (2 Chronicles 14:7) When King Asa made his petition in 2 Chronicles 14:11 Judah was facing the approach of a great powerful army. King Asa had seen the Lord God bless them often as they sought Him and depended upon Him.*

Christians who have the greatest peace in times of trouble are those who are aware of and have enjoyed the Lord’s presence in times of blessings and trials in everyday living. The Holy Spirit has revealed to them what the Apostle Paul prayed for the church. (Ephesians 3:18-19) (2 Chronicles 8)

The church can count her buildings, pastors, deacons, elders and members. The church has more tools today for evangelizing and making disciples than ever before, but she must have a Biblical perspective of her real enemy, just as Asa’s, which caused him to cry out to God.

This enemy, Satan and his demons are real and they are not to be taken lightly. They are the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:12; Wuest Word Studies) (Revelations 12:7-9)

The Greek Word for “drew” (*suro*) in the King James Bible means, “to draw, or pull away, whether things or persons. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary; New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries; Dictionary of Bible Languages with Semantic Domains) This word implies Satan’s ability to cause apostasy by intriguing angels and humans to become earthly or carnal in reasoning and actions. (Jamieson, Fausset and Brown; Critical and Explanatory, on the Old and New Testament) The church of Jesus Christ has a massive enemy who can cause apostasy.

This is the great news. The church who realistically approaches her relationship and service to the Lord in fear and trembling, has watching over her the army of the Lord which is twice the size of Satan’s army. This victorious church knows what Asa knew, all battles for the Lord will be won. (Zechariah 4:6)

Christians who have the heart of David, a repentant heart seeking after God, can cry out to the Lord as David did when Saul and His army were coming after him, “I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills His purpose for me.” (Psalm 57: 2) (Matthew 28:19-20) (Acts 1:8)

Dwight L. Moody: “...I can only say God revealed Himself to me! I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask Him to stay His hand! I went to preach again. The [messages] were no different. I did not present any new truth. Yet hundreds were converted. I would not [go] back that position in life where I was before that blessed experience.”

Let the Holy Spirit come home into your heart. God loves us. We as a church do not need to worry whether or not we have enough programs or are doing enough for the Lord. We need only to rest in His love for us. Rejoice in what He has already done in this Body of Christ right now. (2 Chronicles 14:12-15)

**Transitional Sentence:** *Approaching the Lord as Asa did and resting in God’s love enables the children of God to approach the Lord in prayer. Opening the spiritual heart and allowing the Spirit of Christ to reside there enables the child of God to receive revelation, do what is right in God’s sight and restore true worship in the church of Christ. The Bible says, (John 4:23)*

The Lord knows what His obedient seeking children need. God’s working in and through the life of Asa reveals to us three sure things that happens when the Spirit of God is working in the in the Body of Christ. 1.) The church has Holy Spirit anointed servants. 2.) The church is cleansed by the Holy Spirit and 3.) The church serves the Lord wholeheartedly.

Asa was met by the Prophet Azariah who had a Word from the Lord for Him. 2 Chronicles 15:1 says, “The Spirit of God came upon Azariah.” The term “The Spirit of God” exhibits incontestably the manifold function of the Holy Spirit of God working through a servant of the Lord. (The Pulpit Commentary)

What we have in the Holy Spirit working through the Prophet Azariah is the Old Testament example of the New Testament Holy Spirit given gift of “prophesying” (*propheteia*) (Acts 13:2; Romans 12:6 1 Corinthians 12:4-8,13:2;14:6,24,30-31; The Complete Word Study of the NT; The Septuagint use this same Greek word in 2 Chronicles 15:8) This gift enables the church to enjoy Holy Spirit inspired messages of warning and exhortation, the giving of instructions, judging and making the secrets of the heart known. It is preaching the message of God through intelligible preaching given through intelligible messages. (Word Studies of the New Testament; Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament; Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament) It is important to note that “prophesying” is not primarily prediction but the communication of revealed truth that will both convict and build up the hearers.

Dr. Ed Stetzer comments on Biblical Holy Spirit preaching, “Everybody seems to be an expert on preaching, because everyone who listens to a sermon has an idea of whether or not they like it. False boundaries abound when it comes to preaching—many will say that there is only one biblical form of preaching, but they have missed the point. There are many ways to communicate, but preaching requires a Biblical foundation from which to communicate. Biblical preaching must include *something* to make it a Biblical message rather than a speech.”

“The Bible does say to ‘Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.’” (2 Timothy 4:2-3)

“When looking at boundaries, we have to determine what is NOT commanded but acceptable, certain preaching methods and temper that with what is essential, Biblical preaching.. If the word is preached and it accomplishes the Biblical objectives - correct, rebuke and encourage - then we have ‘preached the Word.’ If that sermon takes a verse-by-verse form, then it accomplishes that biblical objective. If it is thematic and dealing with a topic from a multitude of applied Scriptures, that is acceptable as well. As long as the Scripture sets the agenda of the text and the Scripture is faithfully delivered.”

Pastor, Evangelist and Prophet David Wilkerson wrote it well, “Where the Holy Spirit resides there will be no satisfaction in cotton candy messages.” I would like to add, “Our pulpits need to return to preaching God’s Word and the people of God must learn to hate chocolate covered marshmallow messages and be hungry for the meat or the solid food of God’s Word.” (Hebrews 5:12)

Holy Spirit led messages give guidance and comfort:

Holy Spirit revelation and illumination lead to production of fruit of repentance and Christians who throw out modern day idols. (2 Chronicles 15:8) Prophetic encouragement brings genuine responses from those who have ears to hear the Word of the Lord and a heart to walk in His will. The church must have the Holy Spirit's presence to birth forth true repentance and cleansing so the Body of Christ may enjoy the abundant life in Christ. (The Pulpit Commentary; Matthew Henry Commentary; Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary; A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory)

It is imperative that the New Testament church has an understanding of what is so sinful about idols. In the Old Testament idolatry included 1.) The departure from true worship to God to the worship of false gods, whether by means of images or otherwise and 2.) The worship of the Lord by means of images. (The New International Dictionary of the Bible) (Matthew 6:24) The apostle Paul, in Romans 1:18-25, teaches that idolatry is not the first stage of religion... rather it is deliberate apostasy. The Old Testament concept of idolatry is widened to include anything that leads to the dethronement of God from the heart. (The New International Dictionary of the Bible) (Ephesians 5:5) (Colossians 3:5-6)

When the Holy Spirit is working in the home of the spiritual heart of Christians, the true church will do what Asa and the people of Judah did. "They entered in to a covenant to seek the Lord... with all their heart and soul. They sought God eagerly, and He was found by them." (2 Chronicles 15:12,15)

The Holy Spirit illuminated church has Christians who worship the Lord Jesus in spirit and truth. They rely completely on the Spirit of Christ, who indwells them for guidance and strength to live out what God's Word instructs them to do. The Holy Spirit has brought a spiritual understanding of what the psalmist wrote about in Psalm 51:6-7 and their daily heart cry is, "Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow." (Psalm 51:6-7)

**Transitional Sentence:** *The true church spends seasons seeking the Lord Jesus in prayer and in these last days the church must be honest in her spiritual evaluations.* She must be willing to say "Come Holy Spirit do a work in me." (2 Chronicles 16:2) God sent the seer Hanani to speak a word of rebuke to Asa because he put trust in man and not God, (2 Chronicles 16:7-9) Asa became angry and further added to his sin by putting God's spokesman into prison. (2 Chronicles 16:10) The Bible says, "...Asa was afflicted with a disease in his feet. Though his disease was severe, even in his illness he did not seek help from the Lord..." (2 Chronicles 16:12) God's spokesman had a message for Asa that applies to us today, "For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him..." (2 Chronicles 16:9)

**In Closing:** The church has an enemy and he knows that he running out of time. The Body of Christ needs more of the Holy Spirit's guidance, cleansing and empowerment more than ever. No one is beyond falling into the arms of the flesh and becoming embittered by the trials of life we must go through in order to maintain that personal, intimate, complete trust in the Lord Jesus that God wants from us. As the church maintains a heart cry that says "Come Holy Spirit, do thy Father's will in us," she will be a victorious church achieving the Lord's perfect will for her.

The Lord knows what His obedient seeking children need. Through allowing the Holy Spirit to do a work in His church the Body of Christ will enjoy 1.) Holy Spirit anointed servants. 2.) Cleansing by the Holy Spirit and 3.) The ability to serve the Lord wholeheartedly while being led of the Holy Spirit who brings life to the Written Word.

D. L. Moody was recognized as a child of God who had Holy Spirit filling. An unknown resource wrote, "Moody was to have a campaign in England. An elderly pastor protested, 'Why do we need this Mr. Moody? He is uneducated and inexperienced. Who does he think he is anyway? Does he have a monopoly on the Holy Spirit?' A younger, wise pastor rose and responded, 'No, but the Holy Spirit has a monopoly on Mr. Moody.'"

Are we as a Body of Christ willing to fast and pray that the Holy Spirit comes to Norton County and do a work in us? That the Lord would send the Spirit of Christ to set people free from the bondage of the flesh, the lures of the world and the lies of the devil? When it is all over, will CrossRoads Church be found faithful in asking God to do a work in Norton County because of the work Christ as already done on the Cross of Calvary?

When we make it to heaven, will those who did a hard faithful work in this church before us find that we were faithful to ask God to turn this church into a spiritual hospital where Holy Spirit heart surgery is being done? (Ezekiel 36:26-27) Is this where Christians are receiving a powerful thirst and hunger for the Word of God, Christians saying "Lord Jesus teach me to pray." Asking the Lord to make us a church where all the Holy Spirit given gifts are being exercised out of sacrificial love.

Let us pray!