

I MUST REMOVE THE DISTRACTIONS

KING ASA

2 CHRONICLES 14:3,5

Day 8

King Asa was described here as a man who did that which was right & good; he pleased the Lord with his life. Notice that in the process of living a Godly life, he was constantly removing the distractions that would interfere with pleasing God. In this case, it involved idols & idolatrous worship centers. In our case, it involves the things we either lean on or allow to crowd into our daily walk. Let's be honest here and talk about the relevant distractions that interfere with living a holy life. I have to monitor my thought life so that I will not allow thinking that is dishonorable; how is it possible to study the power of God's word one moment, and then undress some woman I don't know in the next moment? I believe in supporting my pastor in his role as the leader of our church. One moment I can tell him I love him & then send him a note of encouragement in the mail; in the next moment, I can criticize him behind his back. One moment I can affirm my love to my wife and commit myself to her forever; later the same day, I can blame her for all my problems & threaten to walk out of the marriage. One day I can be blessed beyond measure for my personal study of the Bible; the next day I can procrastinate reading it as though there is no importance to it at all. I can stand in church singing hymns with a wonderful spirit of worship & intimacy with the Lord; later, at home, I can complain about what God has allowed to come into my life. I can piously state that "all things work together for good" in my life, and then turn around & give up wanting to be in ministry because I am sick of having to trust God for my daily & regular needs.

The big distraction is that I have decided not to need anyone, not God, not my wife, not the Bible, not the church, not the pastor, not anyone. I must be always in control; I must be in charge. King Asa thought he was in control of his land. He tore down idols & allowed others to remain for idolatrous use. He chose what should be done, even if it was wrong or unpleasing to God. That no longer works for me. I must not allow my selfish control to distract me from God, the Controller of my life.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What really distracts you from maintaining a godly walk? How do you deal with the distractions & how long does it take you to face them?
2. How do you think God views it when you remove certain distractions from your life while leaving others in place? Do you do this? How could you improve this?

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

What do you need to say to God as you face the topic being discussed in this devotional? Write out your prayer word for word just as if you were praying. Use separate lined paper to record your prayer. Make sure you actually pray this prayer to the Lord. Be honest & be personal. After all, you mean business with God here. You want this area of your life either fixed, strengthened, added, or removed.