

2 Chronicles 14:11 “And Asa cried out to the LORD his God, and said, “LORD, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O LORD our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!”

- Look again at how much God had promised him...

2 Chronicles 15:1-2, 7 “Now the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded. ² And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: “Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you... ⁷ But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded!”

For Personal Reflection

- How old are you and how long have you walked with the Lord?
- How vigilant are you to stay alert to spiritual ‘pitfalls’?
- How well do you receive correction and rebuke?

More People Like Us with Problems Like Ours
Asa ~ The Tragedy of Not Finishing Well

2 Chronicles 14-16

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2 Chronicles 14-16

Four Observations and a Warning

I. Maybe You’re Young, Your Life’s Off to a Great Start, and You Don’t See Your Zeal for God Ever Waning

14:2 “Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God.”

14:4 “He commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandments.”

II. Maybe You’ve Seen God Answer Your Prayers in Some Incredible Ways

14:9-12 “then Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and three hundred chariots, and he came to Mareshah...”

III. Maybe Your Life Just Keeps Attracting Others to God and Your Savior

15:9 “Then he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and those who sojourned with them from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon, for they came over to him in great numbers from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.”

IV. Maybe Your Commitment to God is at an All-Time High

15:12-14

V. Don't Ever Think You Can Just Hit the 'Cruise Control' in Your Spiritual Life

16:1-3 "In the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. Then Asa brought silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of the LORD and the king's house, and sent to Ben-Hadad king of Syria, who dwelt in Damascus, saying, 'Let there be a treaty between you and me... break your treaty with Baasah king of Israel, so that he will withdraw from me.'"

I Kings 15:9 *ff* tells us that he reigned 41 years... so this turn of events took place in the last 5 years of his life and ministry.

Pitfall #1 ~ You'll Never Outgrow the Temptation to Trust in Your Own Human Resources

1. Relying on Money Can Keep You from Crying Out to God

16:2 vs. 14:9-11

Sometimes you have greater resources later in life, and if you're not careful, you don't think you have to trust God like you did when you were young and poor.

2. Human Alliances Can Short-Circuit Your Need for God

16:2-3

The longer you live the bigger and broader your network of human relationships becomes. Asa didn't even stop and pray... he just reached out to Ben-Hadad king of Syria.

Pitfall #2 ~ You'll Never be Free from the Sinful Pride that Makes Us So Resistant to Correction

16:7 God tries to get Asa's attention. He sends a man to warn him and remind of what God's done in the past

16:9 "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him..."

- o NASB 'completely His'
- o NIV 'fully committed to Him'

Pitfall #3 ~ Seeking God Now Doesn't Guarantee You'll Seek Him Then

16:12 is one of the saddest verses in the Bible, because 3 years later his heart had only gotten harder.

You're never guaranteed a strong finish... no matter how you start. You have to guard your heart and direct your heart... year after year after year.

- No matter how old you are
- No matter how long you've walked with the Lord
- No matter how greatly He's used you
- No matter what you've seen the Lord do in your lifetime

2 Chronicles 16:12 "And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet, and his malady was very severe; yet in his disease he did not seek the LORD but the physicians."

"Have you ever noticed how many men in the Bible failed in the second half of life?" Our enemy is so cunning that he will wait forty or even fifty years to set a trap." *Joe Aldrich*

- Look again at what characterized his life...

2 Chronicles 14:2 "Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God..."

- Look again at how big he prayed...