

THE PULL OF SELF-RELIANCE

2 CHRONICLES 14-16 | ERIC SIMPSON | OCTOBER 25, 2020

2 Chronicles 14:2-4

²Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God. ³He removed the foreign altars and the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. ⁴He commanded Judah to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, and to obey his laws and commands.

- **Repentance precedes renewal.**

2 Chronicles 14:9

Zerah the Cushite marched out against them with an army of thousands upon thousands..

2 Chronicles 14:11

Then Asa called to the LORD his God and said, "LORD, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this vast army. LORD, you are our God; do not let mere mortals prevail against you."

- **Renewal has a deeply-rooted dependence upon God.**

"Wherever we think we're heading, God is already there." – Bernie Herms

"We want to know the outcomes but God was saying, 'You won't have all the answers but you'll have me and that will be enough.'" – Bernie Herms

2 Chronicles 16:2-3

²Asa then took the silver and gold out of the treasuries of the LORD's temple and of his own palace and sent it to Ben-Hadad king of Aram, who was ruling in Damascus ³"Let there be a treaty between me and you," he said, "as there was between my father and your father. See, I am sending you silver and gold. Now break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so he will withdraw from me."

2 Chronicles 16:7-8

⁷At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him: "Because you relied on the king of Aram and not on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand. ⁸Were not the Cushites and Libyans a mighty army with great numbers of chariots and horsemen? Yet when you relied on the LORD, he delivered them into your hand."

rely = shaan (shaw-an') = to lean upon, to trust for support

2 Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war."

2 Chronicles 16:12

In the thirty-ninth year of his reign 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, but only from the physicians.

- **Our default mode is self-reliance.**

"One of the great embarrassments of Christianity, something that distresses Christians and non-Christians alike, is the fact that people who have aligned themselves with Jesus Christ can act in such vain, stupid, pompous, mean, and hateful ways. The simple explanation is, they've continued to operate from the Self Life." – John Eldredge

Self is a poor savior and an empty god.

Prayerlessness indicates self-reliance.