

**PRAYING EFFECTUAL PRAYERS-PART 3
THE EXAMPLE OF KING ASA
2 CHRONICLES 14:1-15**

Introduction

Ineffective praying is a waste of time, but effectual praying accomplishes a great deal!

We all want to see something accomplished in our lives, especially when it comes to prayer. Again, we know the Bible makes it clear that, *"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*

King Asa was a righteous man that came out of a unrighteous home.

WHO WAS KING ASA? He was the son of King Abijam.

- It is said that during Abijam's reign, the whole population that was able to go forth in war was under arms.
- Five hundred thousand men lost their lives during his reign.
- Abijah had 14 wives. He was a wicked man in every sense of the word.

Out of this ungodly environment came this godly man, Asa.

The reason I point these things out is because some today will tell us that if you grow up in an ungodly environment, it places us at a tremendous disadvantage in life. But that is not the case. Some of the greatest men and women who ever lived on this earth, are men and women that came from disadvantaged homes.

Asa came out of a wicked home environment, yet he turned out to be one of the great kings of Judah. Look at *2 Chron. 14:2*, *"And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God."*

Look at some of the things he did:

- He removed the male prostitutes from the land.
- He removed his grandmother from her position of queen mother, because she had made an idol.
- He destroyed the strange altars, the high places, and the sun images throughout Judah.

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I point out all these things, because it is important that before we get to his prayer, that we establish that He was A RIGHTEOUS MAN. God's Word says, *"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*

However, even the righteous are not exempt from hard times. During Asa's tenure as king, Zerah of Ethiopia, came against him with:

- A million men.
- Three hundred chariots of war.

Asa's army was greatly outnumbered, yet he was not perplexed because he knew that the God he served was bigger and more powerful than a million man army.

WHAT DID HE DO? He prayed a SHORT PRAYER before fighting this major battle in his life.

IS THIS SIGNIFICANT? Yes, it is very significant! THOSE WHO ARE NOT ACCUSTOMED TO PRAYING, PRAY ONLY WHEN DIFFICULTIES ARISE.

(1) SOME ONLY PRAY WHEN A CRISIS COMES UP!

Years can go by before they will pray. But when a crisis comes up you can not shut them up. They are constantly praying.

(2) SOME ONLY PRAY WHEN THEY WANT SOMETHING!

King Asa was a RIGHTEOUS MAN who loved the Lord! And when this crisis came up in his life, HE WAS ALREADY RIGHT WITH GOD, and all he had to do was pray a small simple prayer to face the crisis.

The word of God is correct, *"...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*

Let us look at three things in King Asa's prayer that will help us to be effective prayer warriors.

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I. HE PRAYED! (Vs 11)

His prayer was short and simple but it was filled with things that please God when they are prayed by a righteous man.

A. He Prayed To The Right Person!

When the crisis came up, Asa knew where to take his problems, *"And Asa cried unto the Lord his God..."*

What do many Christians do when a crisis comes up? They turn to their family and friends.

WHY DO THEY TURN TO THEM? Because they know they have a better relationship with family and friends than they have with God.

Did you know that when confronted with a real crisis, our loved ones and friends can do little more than sympathize with us?

Asa knew that his family and friends might have loved him, but about all they could do was sympathize with him. And sympathy does not do much for us when we are in a crisis.

There is very little our friends can do for us, other than sympathize with us. Asa knew this, and the Bible tells us he turned, *"...unto the Lord his God."*

He knew that God is a MIGHTY GOD! When a crisis came, he knew THE RIGHT PERSON to go to. He also knew about -

B. He Relied On The Right Power!

The Bible tells us that Asa's forces were greatly outnumbered, and he needed some tremendous power to overcome what he was facing.

Look at verse 11 again, *"...and said, Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power..."*

When you allow a crisis to become larger than the God you serve, you are in a real crisis!

That is exactly what many people have done. They face different kinds of problems, and their friends and family cannot help them, and they have never discovered that God is our source of strength.

King Asa's prayer revealed that he knew God was more than a match for any crisis he could face as King of Judah.

He Prayed To The Right Person...Relied On The Right Power...

C. He Resorted To The Right Plan!

"...help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee."

Asa recognize that the battle:

- Was not between HIM AND THEM
- Was between GOD AND THEM

This is why he said, *"...Let not man prevail against THEE."*

As we engage in spiritual warfare, so many times we feel that it is US AND THEM, when the battle is really the Lords.

Asa knew that as God's man, he was placed here to face the hostile multitude. But in actuality they were fighting God.

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His plan was to trust God for the victory that only God could give! So he prayed, "...*help us, O Lord our God, for we rest on thee...O Lord, thou art our God.*"

The reason many suffer defeat after defeat in the difficulties they face, is because they have been using the wrong plan.

Many have tried the:

- I'll trust in myself plan
- I will trust in family plan
- I will trust in my friends plan

But these inadequate plans they have trusted in have brought them defeat every time.

Asa trusted in God, he had the right plan.

When we trust the Lord, we are trusting in the plan that is JUST RIGHT!

He turned to the God of heaven, Who is the only One who could help him during that crisis. Does that mean he turned to God and told God to do everything, while he just sat back and did nothing? No...Notice, HE PRAYED, but also-

II. HE PLANNED!

Sometimes we have to put "legs" on our prayers. God will answer our prayers, but sometimes God will use us in the answer to our prayers.

For example, God saved Noah and his family, but God used him to build an ark.

King Asa recognized that EFFECTUAL PRAYING is not just praying, but sometimes it is letting God use us to answer the prayer.

Let's put it down where we can see it.

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We can pray for God to fill the pews in our Church. God wants to use us to invite friends, neighbors, and coworkers to visit their church.

It is not enough to expect God to do everything. There are some things He expects us to do.

God used Asa to plan for success in two ways. And I might say, if he had not been willing to carry out these plans, he would have suffered a tremendous defeat! Notice what his plan was...

A. To Rid His Nation Of Wickedness! (Vs 3-5)

Notice that he did this before this crisis ever came!

Asa had already done everything he could do to rid the nation of Judah of evil. So God could bless his reign as King of Judah! God WOULD NOT bless them as long as they tolerated evil in the land!

When this crisis came up in his life, he did not have to spend days repenting and getting things right with God. He had done all he could do to rid the land of evil, and when this crisis came, he was able to pray one short prayer and get results.

Our prayers will be more effective when we rid our lives of the evil that is in them.

He had a plan TO RID HIS NATION OF EVIL, but also-

B. To Rid His Nation Of Laziness! (Vs 6-7)

Something we hear today from people is the phrase, "I WISH..." Listen, nothing ever is accomplished by wishing. Don't WISH, WORK!

God uses people who know how to work. A nation, or a church can not live on WISHES! Because wishing does not accomplish anything!

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King Asa was a smart man. He knew the God he served was powerful, but he also knew that God expects us to do those things we know we should do!

- He BUILT the walls
- He BUILT the towers
- He BUILT the gates

Asa knew that before a crisis ever came, they NEEDED TO DO all they could to PREPARE themselves, then when the crisis did come all they had to do was pray as he did, that one short, simple prayer.

Are you in a position to call upon God because you have planned and prepared to be able to get in touch with God, or have you left Him out of your planning and preparation?

HE PRAYED, HE PLANNED and-

III. HE PREVAILED!

A. God Used Their Resources! (Vs 8)

This totaled 580,000 men, half the size of the enemy!

Notice, Asa and his people let God use them before the crisis came by preparing walls, towers, and gates to the city, and when the crisis came, Asa let God use them to fight off this mighty army.

Some folks have the idea that they can just sit back and let God fight their battles while they just sit and watch. Listen, **if there is something God leads you to do, He expects you to do it. What you cannot do, He will do!**

God wants to use our RESOURCES to accomplish His will. God's Word says, *"Present your bodies a living sacrifice..."*

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All over this nation, we have Christians that have a *"Let God do it"* attitude. And they are WAITING FOR GOD AND GOD IS WAITING FOR THEM!

God will answer prayer, but He expects us to do what we can do! God expects us to use what He has blessed us with!

Some say, *"I do not know why my prayers are not being answered."* Again, perhaps you are waiting for God to do what He is waiting for you to do! God sometimes answers our prayers by giving us the ability and strength to accomplish what is needed!

King Asa knew that God was powerful and could take care of His nation, but he also knew that God expected them to use their RESOURCES to do their part!

He prevailed because *GOD USED THEIR RESOURCES...*

B. GOD USED THEIR RESOLUTION! (Vs 13-15)

King Asa and his men wanted a complete victory over the enemy. They didn't just want to win a battle for today, they wanted to destroy the enemy!

When we pray for victory from sin, and victory over the enemy, we need to be RESOLVED to fight until the enemy is destroyed! We pray for victory over a sin in our lives, but we are only looking at one little area where the enemy is attacking! We need to look at all sin in our lives and desire and resolve to destroy it completely!

So many Christians are happy with just winning a small battle and are not concerned with the destruction of the adversary.

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Conclusion

We need to do as the song "*I Am Resolved*" that we sing!

Lastly, before we dismiss, I want you to look at an incident later in King Asa's life when he was not a good example. (*2 Chronicles 16:7-13*)

Of he had only continued praying effectual prayers how different things might have been!