

## From Trusting God to Trusting Self

In the thirty-sixth year of King Asa's reign, something subtle but spiritually significant happened: he stopped relying on God.

After decades of rest and success—years marked by spiritual revival and answered prayer—Asa faced a new threat. Baasha, king of Israel, began fortifying Ramah to cut off Judah's supply lines. Rather than calling on God as he had in the past, Asa turned to politics. He took silver and gold from the temple and paid off Ben-Hadad of Syria to attack Israel from the north. It worked. Baasha retreated, and Judah regained ground. On paper, it was a clever, successful move.

But heaven wasn't impressed.

God sent the prophet Hanani with a rebuke:

*"Because you have relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the Lord your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand... 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. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars" (2 Chronicles 16:7, 9 NKJV).*

Asa's decision marked a turning point in his life. Though he had known the faithfulness of God firsthand, he now put his trust in worldly alliances. He relied on strategy, wealth, and human partnerships instead of the God who had fought for him in the past.

## Personal Reflection:

### Have you ever trusted your own plans more than God's presence?

It's easy to start out depending on the Lord, but over time—especially when things go well—we can subtly shift our trust to ourselves. We build careers, relationships, and safety nets and forget that it was God who gave the victory in the first place.

God is still looking for hearts that are fully His. He still wants to show Himself strong. But we have to give Him space to do that.

Ask yourself:

- Do I rely on my own strength or God's?
- Am I seeking God in my decisions, or just reacting out of fear or convenience?
- Has success made me self-reliant?

## The Danger of Resisting Correction

When Asa was confronted, he didn't humble himself—he lashed out. He imprisoned the prophet and hardened his heart. The man who once led the nation in spiritual revival now rejected godly counsel.

This is a sobering warning. When someone speaks truth into your life—especially when it cuts—how do you respond? Do you listen, or push back in pride?

Proverbs 27:6 says, *“Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”* God loves us too much to let us drift without correction.

### The Decline of a Good Start

Asa’s story ends with sickness. In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, he developed a severe disease in his feet, but the chronic pattern had taken root:

*“Yet in his disease he did not seek the Lord, but the physicians”* (v. 12).

This isn’t a rebuke of doctors—it’s a revelation of Asa’s misplaced trust. He didn’t even bother to pray. The one who once called on God in desperation now saw no need.

How tragic it is to begin with passion for the Lord and end in prideful self-reliance.

### Application:

- **Don’t let comfort replace your dependence on God.** Prosperity can slowly erode prayer if we’re not careful.
- **Learn to invite God into every battle.** Even if you think you’ve got it handled.
- **Be open to godly correction.** Sometimes a word from a brother or sister may sting—but it might save you.
- **Don’t just remember what God did—keep seeking Him today.** The victories of yesterday don’t replace the need for fresh dependence today.

*“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...”* (2 Chronicles 16:9 NKJV)

Let that be your life verse. Stay usable. Stay dependent. Keep your heart fully His. Let God show Himself strong on your behalf.