

Living a Life That God Strengthens

When Jehoshaphat became king after his father Asa's death, he inherited more than a throne—he inherited a kingdom that had experienced both revival and decline. But instead of following in the inconsistent steps of his father, Jehoshaphat chose a higher path: he sought the Lord wholeheartedly.

“And the Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of his father David; he did not seek the Baals, but sought the God of his father, and walked in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel” (2 Chronicles 17:3–4 NKJV).

Jehoshaphat made a deliberate decision: *he refused to imitate the compromises of the culture around him*. Israel to the north had plunged into idolatry and political chaos, but he stayed faithful to the God of his fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Personal Reflection:

Whose footsteps are you following in?

We all have influences—parents, mentors, culture, or even peer pressure—but Jehoshaphat chose to walk in the earlier, faithful steps of David, not the divided ways of others. That's a powerful reminder that *you can choose your direction, even if others around you have stumbled*.

If you want God to strengthen your life like He did Jehoshaphat's, then learn from his example:

- He **sought the Lord**—not just believed in Him, but intentionally pursued Him.
- He **obeyed God's commandments**, not just out of duty but with a sincere heart.
- He **avoided the influence of compromise**, steering clear of false gods and unhealthy alliances.

And because of that, God *established him*. His kingdom was secure. His name was honored. His people respected him. Why?

“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).

A Heart Lifted Up in the Right Direction

“His heart took delight in the ways of the Lord” (v. 6).

That's a beautiful description of someone who doesn't just obey God—but enjoys walking with Him. Jehoshaphat wasn't merely religious; he was *in love* with God's ways. He delighted in what pleased the Lord. And that made all the difference.

Is your heart lifted up in the ways of the Lord? Or lifted up in pride, success, or self-promotion?

If your heart is not lifted up in the way of the Lord pray and ask Him to change it.

Evangelism and Education: A Revival Strategy

Jehoshaphat didn't keep God's truth to himself. He sent out teams—leaders and Levites—with the Word of God, city by city, to teach the people.

“They had the Book of the Law of the Lord with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught the people” (v. 9).

This wasn't just politics—it was discipleship. He knew that if the people were going to thrive, they needed more than strong walls and full storehouses. They needed truth. And they needed it taught clearly and widely.

What would it look like if we took that same approach today?

What if every believer saw themselves as part of God's teaching team—bringing the truth of Scripture into homes, workplaces, neighborhoods, and schools?

When God Is Your Defender

“And the fear of the Lord fell on all the kingdoms... so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat” (v. 10).

Jehoshaphat didn't have to fight to be feared. He just had to walk with God, and *God made his enemies back down*. There's great strength in obedience. We don't need to manipulate, control, or intimidate when God is our covering.

Are you trying to defend yourself—or letting God defend you?

Summary Application:

- **Seek God over everything.** Not just in crisis, but as a lifestyle.
- **Delight in God's ways.** Don't just obey—enjoy the walk.
- **Help others grow in truth.** Be a part of the spiritual education of those around you.
- **Trust God to build and defend what you commit to Him.**

Prayer:

“Lord, make my heart like Jehoshaphat's—fully Yours. Teach me to walk in Your ways, not culture's ways. Let me delight in what delights You, and use me to teach others about You. May I trust You to establish what I commit to You, and let my life reflect Your strength. In Jesus' name, amen.”