

Jehoshaphat's Prayer

2 Chronicles 20:1-22

We are living in an amazing time, don't ya know? The medical breakthroughs and with AI coupled with science we are seeing things that our parents and grandparents never even thought possible. I mean we have many people right here in this church that have had transplants of knees and hips and even a heart. Not to mention how the internet has changed the way we think and study to find almost any answer to almost any question you might have. Of course, there are limits God puts on mankind.

God has given and allowed many wonderful things to be used for our benefit and His glory. These are good things when used within God's will and guidance. **Our biggest challenge many times is discerning God's will in how, when and if, to use these things.**

The apostle Paul gives us a good place to start in aligning our lives up with God's will. We are familiar with this passage for that very reason. Let's all read this passage together.

S- **Romans 12:1-2**, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that **you present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may **prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**"*

PK- The apostle encourages us to start with a total trust and belief in Jesus, and His completed work upon the cross and that God raised Him from the dead, **Rm. 10:9**. We must humbly surrender, our body, mind, and soul, totally giving up our worldly ways of life in exchange for a new holy and righteous life **in Christ**. The next

step is giving up our own worldly understanding, will and wisdom for God's divine knowledge and wisdom with the mind of Christ. God is not asking we stop thinking but only to lean on Him for our understanding, seek **Him first**. Next giving up our worldly state for our new citizenship and adoption into the family of God on earth and in heaven. We can then walk in God's truth being led by the Holy Spirit and be able to prove what is that good and acceptable and **perfect will of God**.

Are we following this, we can know God's will for our lives as true disciples of Christ Jesus.

Trusting in Christ in this age can be challenging with all the distractions, noise and busyness of life. Add all the modern technology, internet, modern medicine and scientific discoveries, as we mentioned before and we are tempted to trust in all these things, instead of going to our great sovereign omnipotent Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has promised He would provide ALL our needs and never leave us. God uses modern medicine and doctors to do His will, but we must first put it completely in God's hand and trust the outcome to Him.

God calls us to **seek Him first**. Time and again He desires that we believe that He is the great "*I Am*." Meaning: **I am** your financial adviser and provider, **I am** your great physician; **I am** your comforter and protector; **I AM** your all and all.

The prophet Isaiah brings this out clearly:

S- **Isaiah 41:10**, "*So do not fear, for **I am** with you; do not be dismayed, for **I am** your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*"

PK- These are not just words, they are promises from our divine God. Understand that all we are commanded to do is BELIEVE, then act on that belief as the Lord leads.

Solomon speaks to trusting God and not our own ways.

S- Proverbs 3:5-6, *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In **all** your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”*

PK- So, what does this seeking God’s will and trusting totally in Him look like when we are faced with life in this fallen world of diseases, cults, lies, financial hardships and wars and rumors of war? What do we do as Satan is trying to deceive and destroy everything that is true and good that we have grown accustomed to and depend upon?

Answer:

S- Colossians 3:2 *“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”*

PK- We do that by setting aside dedicated God-time daily in prayer and time reading God’s special letter He wrote to us, His children. In God’s word we find His perfect will, guidance, and strength for all of life’s issues.

Now I’m not saying this is easy, but the rewards can’t be measured.

S- Philippians 4:6-7, *“Be anxious for nothing, but **in everything** by prayer and supplication, **with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your **hearts and minds** through Christ Jesus.”*

PK- Having a thankful heart speaks of our belief that God is faithful to answer our requests perfectly. This gives us that supernatural peace of mind.

Throughout His word God calls us to ***ask and seek***, this seeking is **with an expectant heart**, spending quiet time before the Lord strengthens our faith. He is our loving Father who wants only good for us in a loving and trusting relationship.

S- **Psalms 91:15**, “*He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.*”

PK- God loves us! When we study some of the characters in the bible we find both good and bad examples of what a true believer should be and not be. King Jehoshaphat, the kings of Judah the southern nation of Israel, was one of those good examples in the OT. A man that lived out his faith trusting God even in the most impossible situations, as his name reflects, “*the Lord will rule (judge)*”. His faithful example strengthened the faith of the nation he ruled.

Jehoshaphat’s example is found in **2 Chronicles 20:1-24**, this is known as *Jehoshaphat’s prayer*, let’s read through the whole story first. Now, as we are reading I want you to observe and be conscience of some points, and don’t worry, we will come back and discuss them.

- 1)** How did Jehoshaphat respond to this overwhelming threat to him and the nation of Judah?
- 2)** What did Jehoshaphat call the people to do?
- 3)** How did the people respond to Jehoshaphat’s faithful leadership?
- 4)** How did Jehoshaphat pray to the Lord?

5) How confident were the people of Judah that God would answer?

6) How did God answer their prayers?

7) When did Jehoshaphat order singing and praise to the Lord?

8) How were these enemies defeated?

Now let's pray the Lord reveals to each of us what He wants to teach us about faith, true faith as we read these verses together.

S- 2 Chronicles 20:1-22, *“It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat. ² Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, “A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar” (which is En Gedi, above the Dead Sea) ³ And Jehoshaphat feared, and **set himself to seek the Lord**, and **proclaimed a fast** throughout all Judah.*

S- ⁴ So Judah gathered together to **ask help from the Lord**; (**2Chron. 14:11**) and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord. ⁵ Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, ⁶ and said: **“O Lord God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?**

S- Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, ⁹ **‘If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this**

temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.'

S- ¹⁰ And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir—whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of **Your possession** which You have given us to inherit. ¹² O our God, **will You not judge them?**

S- For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.” ¹³ Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the Lord.

Then **the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel** the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, **in the midst of the assembly.**

S- ¹⁵ And he said, “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! **Thus says the Lord** to you: **‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed** because of this great multitude, **for the battle is not yours, but God’s.**” ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel.

S- You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, **stand still and see the salvation of the Lord**, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you.”

S- *“And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the Lord, worshiping the Lord.*

*Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites **stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with voices loud and high.***

S- ²⁰ *So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: **Believe in the Lord your God,** and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.”*

S- *And when he had consulted with the people, **he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness,** as they went out before the army and were saying:*

*“Praise the Lord,
For His mercy endures forever.”*

S- *Now **when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people** of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.”*

PK- Quit a story, don't you think? Observing the faith of this man and the people of Judah should give us a pause to our faith in our God and His love and faithfulness to us, His people. Let's look at some of these observations shall we?

S1- 1) How did Jehoshaphat respond to this overwhelming threat to him and the nation of Judah?

A. *He immediately sought the Lord's help.*

V3a *"And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord,"*

PK- What an example for us of a man that knew where to turn for help. He knew God's faithfulness to His people.

S2- 2) What did Jehoshaphat call the people to do?

A. *To pray and fast for the LORD's help.*

V3b-4, *"and (Jehoshaphat) proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. ⁴ So Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord."*

PK- Fasting helps cleanse us from our flesh and get us in tune with the Spirit of the Lord.

S3- 3) How did the people respond to Jehoshaphat's leadership?

A. *They came together to follow Jehoshaphat's example in seeking God's help, a leader leads by example.* Notice that the whole of Judah understood who was their Helper.

S4- 4) How did Jehoshaphat pray to the Lord?

A. He went into the Temple and prayed a prayer of history to start, *"O Lord God of our fathers..."*. He then addressing God, reminded and encouraged all Judah who their God was. I love how he addresses God with confident expectation. He is reminding Judah of God's covenant with His people. ***"are You not* God in heaven, and ***do You not* rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand ***is there not power and might***, so that no one is able to withstand You? ⁷ ***Are You not our God***, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of ***Abraham Your friend forever?***"****

PK- When we pray, should we not follow Jehoshaphat's prayer. He knows his God and God's faithfulness in what He has done in the past and expects God to do the same for him now.

S1- 5) How confident were the people of Judah that God would answer?

A. *"Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the Lord."*

They all believed their God would deliver them from this great multitude. They could have sang a song of ascent that they all knew.

Ps 121:1-2, *"I will lift up my eyes to the hills-From whence comes my help? My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth."*

S2- 6) How did God answer their prayers?

A. *Through His prophet, Ja-haz-iel and God's mighty hand.)*

V14, *"Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel..."*

S3- 7) When did Jehoshaphat order singing and praise to the Lord?

A. Immediately following Ja-haz-iel's word from the LORD, while the enemy was still before them, Jehoshaphat *believed God was true to His word. Also as they went out to meet their enemy.*

S4- 8) How were these enemies defeated?

S- Thus says the Lord to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, **stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and**

Jerusalem!’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you.”

PK- As we close, let us take as assessment of how we respond to the trials and tribulations we encounter? Have we offered ourselves as *living sacrifices to the Lord*? Do we first seek help from our Lord and Savior Jesus before seeking the wisdom of the world? Is Jesus your *I Am* in all things? Do we “*Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*” Don’t get caught up in things that God is not directing us to.

Finally, ‘***Do not be afraid nor dismayed*** because of a great multitude of issues before you, ***for the battle is not yours, but God’s.***”

Let’s Pray