

2022



SEEK OR NOT

FROM "NEW POST ALERT" SERIES

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

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We must remember that not all new posts are good posts. We see this with King Asa. Early on in his position, King Asa was successful and sought God in all things. Yet, he died forgetting that his help and success came from God, not man. Let's learn more from King Asa's "new post alert."

OLD POST

2 Chronicles 14:7 NIV - "Let us build up these towns," he said to Judah, "and put walls around them, with towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours, **because we have sought the Lord our God; we sought him** and he has given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered.

NEW POST

2 Chronicles 16:12 NIV - 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.**

- Faith has to be your first thought, not your afterthought.
- Don't allow power or status to prevent you from seeking God.

Galatians 5:7 KJV - *Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?*

- It's not about how you start, it's about how you finish.
- Be careful not to let carnality push you into a space of sin.

How has your relationship with God changed? What has caused this change?

WHAT DID HE BUILD?

THE CITIES

2 Chronicles 14:6-7 NIV- **He built up the fortified cities of Judah**, since the land was at peace. No one was at war with him during those years, for the Lord gave him rest. [7] "Let us build up these towns," he said to Judah, "and **put walls around them, with towers, gates and bars.** The land is still ours, because we have sought the Lord our God; we sought him and he has given us rest on every side." **So they built and prospered.**

- Builders need something to build.
- The more successful you are, the more spiritual you'll need to be. Your success comes from the Lord and it's spiritual.

How are you building up your relationship with God? As you pursue God, in what areas has He given your rest, peace and success?

THE ARMY

2 Chronicles 14:8 NIV - Asa had an army of **three hundred thousand men from Judah**, equipped with **large shields and with spears**, and **two hundred and eighty thousand from Benjamin, armed with small shields and with bows.** All these were brave fighting men.

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- You can't afford to build something and not protect it. The enemy is coming to attack and it's up to you to protect what God has given you.
- You have to surround yourself with strong people who will fight the devil.

How are you protecting your relationship with God? Who is helping you protect your relationship with Him?

PEOPLE

2 Chronicles 15:9 NIV- Then **he assembled all Judah and Benjamin** and the people from **Ephraim, Manasseh and Simeon** who had settled among them, for large numbers had come over to him from Israel when they saw that the Lord his God was with him.

- When you are building something people are drawn to you.
- Investment in people is important. They go from generation to generation. Therefore, you have to mentor, teach and train others.

How can you build up those around you as you pursue your relationship with God?

SPIRITUALITY

2 Chronicles 14:2-5 NIV - Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God. [3] **He removed the foreign altars and the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles.** [4] **He commanded Judah to seek the Lord,** the God of their ancestors, and to obey his laws and commands. [5] He removed the high places and incense altars in every town in Judah, and the kingdom was at peace under him.

- You need a spiritual hedge around you. Keep God first in everything that you do and worship Him in front of others.
- Be careful that you do not need struggle to keep you spiritual.
- If you obey the Lord, you shall eat the good of the land.

What do you think is meant by 'good and right in the eyes of the Lord'? Look over this season of your life and examine if this phrase could be said of you. Why or why not?

WORSHIP SERVICES

2 Chronicles 15:11 NIV - At that time they sacrificed to the Lord seven hundred head of cattle and seven thousand sheep and goats from the plunder they had brought back.

2 Chronicles 15:14-15 NIV - They took an oath to the Lord with **loud acclamation**, with **shouting** and with **trumpets** and **horns**. All Judah rejoiced about the oath because they had sworn it wholeheartedly. They sought God eagerly, and he was found by them. **So the Lord gave them rest on every side.**

- Your praise releases peace and has the ability to change your situation. Every time you praise God, you build something.
- Learn to praise God when it's good so you'll remember how to do it when things are bad.

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What does this scripture show you about praising God?

THE VICTORY

2 Chronicles 14:9-10 NIV - Zerah the Cushite marched out against them with an army of thousands upon thousands and three hundred chariots, and came as far as Mareshah. [10] Asa went out to meet him, and they took up battle positions in the Valley of Zephathah near Mareshah.

- Don't get used to functioning in dysfunction.
- We don't run from fights, we address them.
- If you build it right, you will have sustained victory.

*2 Chronicles 14:11-12 NIV - **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." [12] **The Lord struck down the Cushites before Asa and Judah.** The Cushites fled,*

- It's not you that they don't like - it's the God in you.
- Show up, get in position, and seek the Lord. He will fight for you.
- Every time you win, you owe God a praise.

2 Chronicles 15:19 NIV - There was no more war until the thirty-fifth year of Asa's reign.

- God will test you by allowing the enemy to step to your table.
- Some things can be avoided when you draw to God in **all** things. He will raise His hand to seize attacks from coming near you.
- You must take advantage of your peaceful seasons.

How has God made you victorious in your life? How did this victory impact your relationship with God?

THE BEGINNING OF A NEW POST

2 Chronicles 16:1 NIV - In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and fortified Ramah to prevent anyone from leaving or entering the territory of Asa king of Judah.

- "The greatest enemy of progress is your last success." - Dr. Myles Monroe
- You cannot get so comfortable that you forget how you became successful.

How do you respond to attacks of the enemy now that you have a relationship with God? Is your response the same as when you first began your walk with God?

HE STOPPED SEEKING THE LORD

2 Chronicles 16:3 NIV - "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

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treaty with Baasha king of Israel so he will withdraw from me."

- When you lose your seek, things get worse. Your seek gives you strength.

How can you improve your relationship/seek with God? What is your relationship with God based on? How has it changed over time?

HE RELIED ON HIS PERSONAL RESOURCES

2 Chronicles 16:2 NIV - Asa 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.

- Things will be added to you, but don't let them become your god.
- Don't get confused and think that you look or live better by forgetting where your help comes from. Give God the Glory.

Using Matthew 6:33 and Proverbs 3:5-6 as reference scriptures, how do you ensure that you rely on God more than your resources?

HE NEVER TRIED TO FIX IT WITH GOD

2 Chronicles 16:12-13 NIV - 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. [13] Then in the forty-first year of his reign Asa died and rested with his ancestors.

- Keep God first in everything you do and stay hungry for Him.
- Don't live in victory and die in defeat.
- Don't let comfortability put you in a place of complacency. Finish strong.

What is your main takeaway from the end of Asa's life? How does this impact your desire to include God in all areas of your life?

PRAYER

Lord, let us learn from King Asa, his life and his mistakes. Let us never get so comfortable that we forget to seek your face. You can trust us with success. Let us mature so we do not need warfare to have a relationship with you. Deliver us from dysfunction. Draw us to you. Let us always seek your presence. Let nothing separate us from you God. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!