

2 Chronicles 7:11–14 ~

[11] Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD and the king's house. All that Solomon had planned to do in the house of the LORD and in his own house he successfully accomplished.

[12] Then the LORD appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice.

2 Chronicles 7:11-14 ~

[13] When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, [14] if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

What does this passage mean?

Who is it for?

Can we glean anything from it for us today?

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Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

(1 Peter 2:10 ESV)

For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

(Hebrews 13:14 ESV)

Obstacle #1: Pride

2 Chronicles 7:14 ~ if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

"Pride is a barrier to all spiritual progress." ~ Harry Ironside

"Pride thrust Nebuchadnezzar out of men's society, Saul out of his kingdom, Adam out of paradise, Haman out of court, and Lucifer out of heaven." ~ Thomas Adams

Proud, Unbroken People	Humble, Broken People
Focused on failure of others	Overwhelmed with sense of own spiritual need

Maintain control; must be their way

Defensive when criticized

Feel confident in how much they know

Concerned with what others think

Humbled by how much they have to learn All that matters is what God thinks

Willing to yield the right to be right

Receive criticism with humble, open heart

Obstacle #2: Self-Sufficiency

2 Chronicles 7:14 ~ if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

"Prayer is an acknowledgment of need and a renunciation of self-sufficiency. If we really believed that our condition—individually and collectively—is hopeless and helpless apart from divine intervention, and He is able to do immeasurably more than what we can ask or imagine, I can't help but wonder how much more frequent and fervent our prayers would be."

~ Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

Obstacle #3: Misplaced Priorities

2 Chronicles 7:14 ~ if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you... My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips... (Psalm 63:1-5 ESV)

Obstacle #4: Unrepentant Sin

2 Chronicles 7:14 ~ if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

(Psalm 32:3-4 ESV)

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

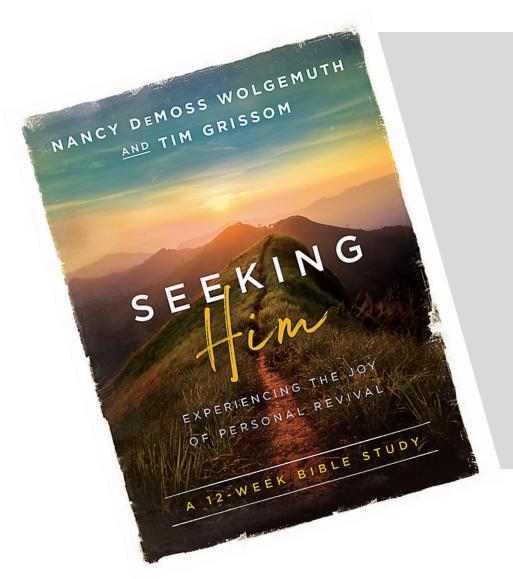
(1 John 1:8-9 ESV)

"If you don't feel strong desires for the manifestation of the glory of God, it is not because you have drunk deeply and are satisfied. It is because you have nibbled so long at the table of the world. Your soul is stuffed with small things, and there is no room for the great." ~ John Piper

"All too often we think of holiness as giving up the pleasures of sin for some worthy but drab life. But holiness means recognizing that the pleasures of sin are empty and temporary, while God is inviting us to magnificent, true, full, and rich pleasures that last forever."

~ Tim Chester

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