

8 VERSES

THAT EVERY
CHRISTIAN
SHOULD KNOW

Sermon Title: Finishing Strong Part 1

Series: 8 Verses That Every Christian Should Know

Passages: 2 Chronicles 14-16

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Starting strong is easy. Finishing strong is hard.

Maybe you are a fur piece from where you once were.

Why do you think finishing strong is so hard and important at the same time?

2 Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.

Asa began to tolerate what he once was not willing to tolerate.

2 Chronicles 14:2-3

Asa did good and right in the sight of the Lord his God, for he removed the foreign altars and high places, tore down the sacred pillars, cut down the Asherim.

2 Chronicles 14:4

He commanded Judah to seek the Lord God of their fathers and to observe the law and the commandment.

2 Chronicles 15:12-13

They entered into the covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and soul; and whoever would not seek the Lord God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, man or woman.

2 Chronicles 15:14

Moreover, they made an oath to the Lord with a loud voice, with shouting, with trumpets and with horns.

2 Chronicles 15:15

All Judah rejoiced concerning the oath, for they had sworn with their whole heart and had sought Him earnestly, and He let them find Him. So the Lord gave them rest on every side.

2 Chronicles 15:16

He also removed Maacah, the mother of King Asa, from the position of queen mother, because she had made a horrid image as an Asherah, and Asa cut down her horrid image, crushed it and burned it at the brook Kidron.

2 Chronicles 15:17

But the high places were not removed from Israel; nevertheless Asa's heart was blameless all his days.

Asa began to make decisions without asking God for guidance.

2 Chronicles 16:1

In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah and fortified Ramah in order to prevent anyone from going out or coming in to Asa king of Judah.

2 Chronicles 16:2

Then Asa brought out silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of the Lord and the king's house, and sent them to Ben-hadad king of Aram, who lived in Damascus, saying,

2 Chronicles 16:3

Let there be a treaty between you and me, as between my father and your father. Behold, I have sent you silver and gold; go, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so that he will withdraw from me.

2 Chronicles 14:8

Now Asa had an army of 300,000 from Judah, bearing large shields and spears, and 280,000 from Benjamin, bearing shields and wielding bows; all of them were valiant warriors.

2 Chronicles 14:9

Now Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and he came to Mareshah.

2 Chronicles 14:10

So Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up in battle formation in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.

2 Chronicles 14:11

Then Asa called to the Lord his God and said, "Lord, there is no one besides You to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O Lord our God, for we trust in You, and in Your name have come against this multitude. O Lord, You are our God; let not man prevail against You."

2 Chronicles 15:1-2

Now the Spirit of God came on Azariah the son of Oded, and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Listen to me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: the Lord is with you when you are with Him. And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.

Asa misused the resources God had given Him.

2 Chronicles 16:2

Then Asa brought out silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of the Lord and the king's house, and sent them to Ben-hadad king of Aram, who lived in Damascus, saying,

2 Chronicles 15:18

He brought into the house of God the dedicated things of his father and his own dedicated things: silver and gold and utensils.

Asa refused to accept responsibility for his actions.

2 Chronicles 16:7

At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because you have relied on the king of Aram and have not relied on the Lord your God, therefore the army of the king of Aram has escaped out of your hand.

2 Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars."

2 Chronicles 16:10

Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in prison, for he was enraged at him for this. And Asa oppressed some of the people at the same time.

Asa could have finished strong but chose de-feet instead.

2 Chronicles 16:12

In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa became diseased in his feet. His disease was severe, yet even in his disease he did not seek the Lord, but the physicians.

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