

Preparing our Heart to seek the Lord I & II

Preparation of our hearts to seek the Lord, live a godly life, and to overcome temptation is not accidental. It doesn't just happen. We prepare in all areas of life but not this area, why is it? You will not live godly or overcome the temptation and evil of this life accidentally. There has to be effort and work on your part. Our confidence comes from our preparation.

We should not only seek the Lord in tragedy, but all the time. It ought to be a lifestyle. If we don't, we may not always get the results we desire.

Main Text:

2 Chronicles 12:14 "And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD." "...he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him." (2 Chronicles 12:1)—King Rehoboam son of King Solomon

a) Prepared

The word "prepared" here in this verse is a Hebrew: "**Koon**" which means "**To be erect, to set up, to fix, apply, establish**" (Strong's Concordance).

- i) Psalms 57:7 "My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise."

b) Heart

Our hearts do not seek the Lord by themselves or by default. On the contrary, they tend towards evil or ungodliness. The process of preparing our hearts to seek the Lord is very deliberate.

c) Seek the Lord

Most people will seek the Lord in times of trouble but very few do so on a **daily basis**. We have to seek the Lord on a daily basis **thereby sensitizing our hearts towards the Lord**.

- See the Lord on a daily Basis
- It will Sensitize our hearts towards the Lord

- i) We must seek the Lord ahead of time so that when a challenging and tempting opportunity arises, we do not panic, making a wrong decision in the heat of the moment. We have to learn to make pre-decisions or predetermine our responses. However, this is only possible if we seek the Lord betimes by preparing our hearts.
 - o Seek the Lord ahead of time or betimes.
 - o The result will be no panic in the face of trial, temptation, challenges, and tragedy.
 - o Make pre-decisions and pre-determine our responses.
 - o We can't seek God only when it's necessary. This should be our lifestyle. We can't seek God sporadically.

- ii) There are reasons why some people are stable and firm through the storm while others are falling apart like some 50 cents of trousers. There are reasons why some people get breakthroughs and others don't. Praying over the soil is not a substitute for planting a seed in it! You can pray all you want but it reaches a point where you won't receive if no seed was planted in the ground. A seed must be planted. A farmer that didn't plant can't expect a harvest. We accept this natural law but neglect or reject the same spiritual law.

- iii) Take an example of the following.

They all were men who sought the Lord and prepared their hearts to seek. Their hearts were fixed upon the Lord. Their results and boldness were a by-product of a prepared heart to seek the Lord.

- o Jesus—Luke 2:49 "And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"
 - a. Our hearts have to be prepared if we do not want to commit wickedness

- o Joseph—Genesis 39:9 "There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

- o David—1 Samuel 17:34-37 "And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the

armies of the living God. David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee."

- Daniel—Daniel 6:10-11 "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did formerly. Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God."
- Meshack, Shadrack and Abednego. Daniel 3:12-19 "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

Many people want the impact and results of all these men but very few are willing to pay the price or go the mile they went. Everyone wants microwave stuff. An oven and/or a crockpot cooks and tastes better. There are results you will not get if you do not prepare your heart to seek the Lord. Just forget it!

Psalm 119:9-11 "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

- ○ Hiding and protecting the word in our hearts is a key way to prepare and to fix our hearts upon the Lord.
 - Our hearts have to be prepared if we do not want to commit wickedness.
- iv) Time (Quality and Quantity) is critical in preparing our hearts to seek the Lord.

The more our hearts are prepared, the more sensitive they will be towards the Lord! A hardened heart is a non-prepared heart. Do not just prepare to preach at people. Prepare for yourself. Men of integrity and character are not born that way. They cultivate their hearts and prepare their hearts to seek the Lord.

- You need both quality time and quantity time, not either-or. The more we fix and prepare our hearts to seek after the Lord the more sensitive it gets.
- Prepare your heart for yourself not for the purpose of preaching to others.

I had a friend who was fascinated by my ability to give the exact address to most of the scriptures but the truth is I put in lots of hours studying and preparing my heart. I told him that while i was busy cracking books (Studying God's word), he was busy snoring or climbing trees to eat ripe mangoes!

Proverbs 16:1, 9 1 The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD. 9 A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

We have the responsibility of preparing our hearts if we want to get an answer from the Lord.

The logo for Rich Kanyali, featuring a stylized 'RK' monogram on the left and the text 'RICH KANYALI' on the right, separated by a vertical line. The entire logo is set against a black rectangular background.

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Prepare Your Heart to Seek the Lord II

Preparation of our hearts to seek the Lord, live a godly life, and to overcome temptation is not accidental. It doesn't just happen. We prepare in all areas of life but not this area, why is it? You will not live godly or overcome the temptation and evil of this life accidentally. There has to be effort and work on your part. Our confidence comes from our preparation.

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Text:

And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle. — 1 Samuel 17:20; ⁴⁵ Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. ⁴⁶ This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands. — 1 Samuel 17:45-47

- a) **David shouted for the battle**, which implies he was neither afraid nor scared. He was excited to see the demise of the Philistines. We should have the same attitude and go hard after our Goliath with a shout of victory and cheer knowing we are going to conquer. Even when the enemy intimidated and spoke negative words against the children of Israel, David was strong and not afraid.
- b) His reaction was predetermined long before he came to experience the challenge of Goliath, because he had prepared his heart to seek the Lord while he was still in the bush keeping sheep. This is the reason David did not flee into hiding when all the rest were fleeing. He was not paralyzed by the threat of Goliath. His heart was prepared (2 Chronicles 12:14) and fixed ahead of time, before this crisis came.
 - i) **What we do when there is no pressure, or no crisis determines what we will do when pressure and crisis hits.**
 - ii) The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD. — Proverbs 21:31

- c) David took twenty years preparing or being prepared to be king over all Israel for forty years. We must prepare and we must be patient.
 - i) Preparation time is the main part of your ministry and calling. The more prepared you are the more chances you have to make it in ministry and also survive tragedy when it hits.

Jehoshaphat

Our hearts don't just get to know and seek the Lord by themselves. This doesn't happen naturally without any effort on our part. We must take the initiative and put in the effort to seek the Lord.

One of the main things I love about King Jehoshaphat is that he was a man who prepared his heart to seek the Lord (2 Chronicles 19:3).

Looking at the leadership of King Rehoboam, we see the very opposite of Jehoshaphat. **He did not prepare his heart to seek the Lord, and therefore he did evil (2 Chronicles 12:14).**

We can't just use God as a **microwave** or a slot machine where you put a coin and "God" comes out.

- a) If you want to only **visit faith in times** of trouble, you will not get the same results as those who live by faith (Habakkuk 2:4).
- b) We should seek the Lord every time, and when trouble comes, we will have our fellowship and relationship with the Lord will pull us through. Our endurance, faith, and wisdom could be produced from our continual seeking of the Lord.
 - i) **Minutes of seeking the Lord will not produce the same results as years of seeking the Lord.**
 - ii) Have you heard someone say, "I prayed just as they did, but I didn't get the same results. Why is it? Is God fair?" Such folks only see the minute-long prayer, but they don't see years of seeking, fellowship, and preparing our hearts to seek the Lord. It takes time and years to know the Lord. It's a growth process for each one of us and you should not skip yours because it takes a while. We all have been there.

- For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little;" (Isaiah 28:10, 13).
- What we envy, wish for, admire, see, or even desire in other people's lives takes time, years and years of cultivation, preparation, seeking and fellowshiping with the Lord.
- It took someone forty years to get to a place where they do what they do effectively. It did not take just one day of fasting and prayer. No shortcuts. You must put in the time. Preparation time is not wasted time.

Not perfectly....

Although King Jehoshaphat prepared his heart to seek the Lord, He did not do it perfectly. You may not do it perfectly, but you have and ought to do it. Not all the people sought the Lord like he did.

- a) And he walked in the way of Asa his father, and departed not from it, doing that which was right in the sight of the LORD. Howbeit the high places were not taken away: for as yet the people had not prepared their hearts unto the God of their fathers." (2 Chronicles 20:32-33) Worship was forbidden in any other place, but in the temple in Jerusalem.

In conclusion, life gets a little easier with preparation.

Things that could be intimidating cease to be because we know the answers and are prepared. There is no fear because we are prepared. I have seen this when ministering. The more prepared I'm the bolder I'm.

No one learns how to shoot in the battle nor boxing in the match. We must prepare betimes if we want to experience victory.

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." — Benjamin Franklin

"Proper preparation prevents poor performance." —Stephen Keague