

Getting Vertical Part 1

2 Chronicles 14 – King Asa

Intro: Most of the time here at CCV we are working our way thru books of the Bible{ Steady pace

A) But every now and then as a Pastor I sense the Lord saying to my heart – FOCUS here

B) I have something that I want to say to the Body at CCV – I want them to get

1) Something that I want to do in them – Collectively

C) Now On Wed nites we have been studying thru the Old Testament books of 1,2 Chronicles –

1) Great books – Kings of Judah

D) As I was reading ahead – looking at the lives of some of the Kings we were going to be studying –

1) I sensed God saying – Focus on 3 Men

E) Still going thru 2nd Chronicles on Wednesdays

1) But beginning today – Indepth look at 3 Kings

2) **Asa / Jehoshaphat / Hezekiah**

What we learn about them is that they are 3 Kings who refused to allow their lives to be dictated by the Horizontal – things going on around them

They got vertical } Title: Getting Vertical

Horizontal can dictate: Relationship challenges

Financial challenges / Health ... Looms Large

Now for those of you who haven't been with us on Wed nite, let me do a quick review

A) 1,2 Chronicles – written most likely by Ezra

B) Writing to the remnant that is returning from Babylon, 70 yrs of captivity for Israel's rebellion

1) These are the Children of those who were carried away captive

C) They are returning to a Jerusalem { never seen, only heard about – A Jerusalem that has been torn apart – Walls are down – defenseless

1) Temple has been destroyed

D) They know nothing of the glory that was once a vibrant part of the nation

1) They were not alive when Israel was a mighty nation

They have a tough road ahead of them REBUILD and to encourage them, Ezra is writing to remind them of their History – and the faithfulness of God

A) He is going to do so by retracing the history of the Kings of Judah

B) To illustrate – When God’s people look to Him – depend upon Him – faithful to Him

1) When their hearts are loyal – {not perfect} but Loyal, He does amazing things

C) Illustrated the Life of David / Solomon –

Rehoboam **Division occurs / Abijah**

As we come to Chapter 14 – Begin to look at the remaining 14 Kings – whose reigns will comprise a period of 358 yrs

A) So we are talking about a period of time that is longer than America has been a country

B) Time for a lot to happen – time for God to move in many ways

1) And He does

C) Israel in the North is going down the tubes –

1) But Judah in the south will experience several moves of God – Several Revivals

**Today we are going to see how God began to move on the nation thru a man named Asa
RD V.1-2**

A) Asa was 25 yrs old when he came to the throne:

Reminds us, never too young to make an impact for God

David at 15 killed Goliath

1) Young Leaders CHS – teens preaching to 1,000’s

2) Greg Laurie - 18

B) Asa was a young man used by God in a Powerful way: He reigned 41yrs in Judah

1) During that time Israel in the north would go thru 8 different kings - All the way to Wicked King Ahab / Jezebel

Asa inherits kingdom that was broken down! A Kingdom that has been weakened by sin.

A)It had gone thru 40 yrs of poor leadership & compromise, starting w/ the 2nd half of Solomon’s life

B) Idolatry and compromise entered the Kingdom

1) The Kingdom was divided

C) Maybe that is a description of your life today

1) Things are broken down – Marriage

2) Friendships in turmoil

D) Compromise has set in! Life has been weakened

E) Take heart: This passage shows us what can happen in a life – when we fully turn to God.

Now the first thing I want you to notice about Asa is, we are told in V.2 It is said of Asa – “Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord.”

B) He is the only one who is given that title – Good and right

C) Now, here is what this tells me about God

1) God watches – He takes notice of what is going on in our lives – He takes inventory.
Pays attention

All things are naked and open before Him!

D) He is watching for what is good and right {Motives

See, I can do good things but with a wrong heart

No value

You can pray.... and that is GOOD. But if you are praying like the Pharisees, who were praying to be heard by men or to fulfill some obligation, you have *had your reward*.

Praying is good but it is NOT right if your motives are wrong.

EXAMPLE: Giving is GOOD, but if you give like the Pharisees to get the applause of men, then it is NOT *RIGHT*.

EXAMPLE: Witnessing is GOOD, but if you are witnessing to add another notch to your Bible, then it is NOT *RIGHT*.

Here is what else this tells me – The Christian life is really meant to be simple: Doing what is good and right

A) Don't complicate our walks with the Lord

B) Walking with God is as simple as doing what is good and right in His eyes

C) Lord, I sense in my heart – I shouldn't be watching this / listening to that – right now leave

1) Instead of rationalizing – well it is really not that bad – Only say the F word once, God's name twice

C) Me – movie recently – Checked review – didn't seem that bad – Check in my heart – later review wow!

1) Listen to someone call my wife a nasty name – Once would be too much

D) Lord I want to do what is good & right in your eyes

E) Not going to that place / not hanging with those people

1) Not engaging in that conversation

Philippians 4:8-9

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things.”

F) Makes our walks – Simple and blessed – More concerned about the VERTICAL / horizontal

So Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord – Here is what that looked like in His life – I want to note 4 things **Read v3-5**

#1 He removed the idols – all of them !)

A) In other words He got rid of the things that didn't belong

B) One of the first steps to seeing revival happen in your life - / home / marriage / friendships / Church

1) Get rid of the things that don't belong!

True repentance will be seen in Change

A) **Bear fruits worthy of repentance”** – More than just tears and feeling sorry –

B) Many Christians fail here – they get convicted, they have sorrow – over something in their lives

1) But they actually stop short of removing the things that are causing the problems

C) The language of v. 3 is interesting to me!

1) He removed the Altars and high places.

2) He broke down the Sacred pillars.

3) He cut down the wooden images.

He removed the Altars –

Application: Is there anything in your life – that resembles an Altar – an affection – that doesn't belong?

A) Habit ? / a relationship – confiding in a person of the opposite sex – not your spouse

B) Secret Stash

1) Alcohol – Liberty but not for you!

C) He removed the altars

He Broke down the Sacred Pillars –

A) Anything in your life that has been propped up – Given a place that doesn't belong

B) Needs to be Broken down – Needs to be Destroyed

He cut down the wooden images

A) Anything that has grown up in your life – from a bad attitude – root of bitterness – Cut down

B) Anything that you have allowed to Grow in your heart that needs to be Cut off

C) So that was the first thing that Asa did – He took care of the sin

#2 He got passionate about Seeking God! V.4 He commanded the nation to seek The Lord

A) He used his position as King to call the nation back to a place of seeking God

B) Can't legislate Christianity – Can't make it law

1) Can't sanction Revival - Can't disciple someone who doesn't want to be Discipled.

C) **But Application for us** – After removing the things that were wrong, he started doing what was right

D) But it is amazing the Chain reaction that can happen when – a person or group says – **I am going for it with God, follow me**

Joshua Choose this day: As for me and my house....

A) SN – Sometimes it only takes one person – or a handful of people – lead a whole group – a School

Diana Chavez { One person impacts a school

B) One group, a youth group

1) I am praying for our youth group / School here

C) Sometimes – The Carnal lead -

1) Praying – strong will stand

B) Dad – **“This is what we are going to do!”**

1) Follow me as I follow Christ!

C) **Statistics on when Men Lead**

Research has revealed that if a child is the first person in a household to become a Christian, there is a 3.5 percent probability that everyone else in the household will become Christians. Not very high at all.

If the mother is the first to accept Christ, the percent goes up to 17 percent of the homes will see the remainder of its members trust Christ.

But if the father is first, there is a 93 percent probability that everyone else in the household will follow.

#1 Removed the Sin / #2 New commitment to seeking God

#3 He built! Read v.6-8

Now Go back to v.2 The land was quiet for 10 yrs

10 yrs of rest – In Israel that is Unique

A) 10 yrs no challenges / no battles

B) Temptation to cruise / to Kick back – He doesn't

1) Not what He opted to do!

C) Instead He Builds: He fortified cities –

1) He built walls and lookout towers. He strengthened the gates

2) He Built up the army to 580,000

E) He did everything He could during that time – And it was good and right in God's eyes

F) Note V.6 He built because God had given him rest

Interesting, in that time it would have been tempting to say “*Things are going great – let's cruise – things are going great let's maintain*”

A) Your Christian walk – God never wants us to maintain! Or Settle for the Status quo

B) We are called to Build – We are called to have a progression in our lives

We are 9 months into a new year – when you look at your life – those areas – Have you grown?

C) What are you doing right now to Build your marriage ?

1) Your Prayer life / Study life / Service / Friendships

How do we grow?: There are THREE ways that the Bible says that you can BUILD or EDIFY

A) God's Word Builds Us Up

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

The word *GROW* is actually the Greek word translated as *EDIFY* it means to Build up

There are those who say: “Well, that is talking to new believers. They need to be going to a lot of Bible studies.”

NOTE: It does NOT say: “IF you are a new born babe”. It says “*AS new born babes desire....*”

On average, a newborn in the first month consumes about 1.5 to 2 ounces every 2 hours. 8-12 times a day.

We all should be desiring the milk of the Word, *AS* new born babes.

You moms can recall the *DESIRE* for milk that your babies had. They *CRAVED* it. *THAT* is how we are to be. *CRAVING* it and *GULPING* it down.

Craving the Word

A) God's word Builds us up

B) Our Words Can Build Up

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue:

Why David Prayed!

Psalm 141:3 *Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;
Keep watch over the door of my lips.*

Please remember that EVERY WORD that you speak will either BUILD up or TEAR down.

You will be building up and encouraging or undermining, questioning, poisoning and polluting.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer every man.

Proverbs 25:11 *A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold
In settings of silver.*

Meaning Apples...silver – it is attractive – It is valuable - Presentable – want people to see it!

C.) Love Builds Us Up

1 Corinthians 8:1 Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up..

If we reduce our study of the Word to an intellectual exercise, we find ourselves PUFFED UP but NOT BUILT UP.

A) The END RESULT of Bible study should be LOVE.

1 Timothy 1:5 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

So the 3rd thing we see what Asa did was, He built

Notice after growing / Building After 10 yrs of rest, the enemy comes – Always does

A)Rest doesn't last – there is an attack just around the corner! RD V.9-10

B) Zerah the Ethiopian comes w/ an army of 1 million men

1) Suddenly Asa's army of 580,000 doesn't look so big

C) Plus they have 300 Chariots – TANKS

1) 1 Man vs tank – no match unless you are Jack Bauer

Watch what Asa does- Read v.11

#1 Asa took care of the sin.

#2 Asa passionately sought the Lord

#3 He Built

#4 He cries out the the Lord in a time of Crisis.

This is a great prayer

Note several things

1st He focused on the Bigness of God – this is nothing for you

This is a great thing to remember – You might be facing what seems like a mountain to you.

A) Lord, this is the biggest thing that I have ever faced – but I know that this is nothing for you.

B) All relative – Your thing might seem insignificant to others – but Huge to you – your perspective

1) But it is nothing to God

C) Relationships

1) Investments

D) This is called getting a little-God perspective

2nd There is an acknowledgement of their weakness

A) You are able to save by many or by few

B) We thought we were many but in comparison to this – We are few ! We are little

C) Poor in Spirit ! –

1) We recognize our weakness – Open the door for His Strength – “In your strength we go

out”

D) Grace is sufficient – in your

3rd His rest was in the Lord. What does that look like

A) Strive to enter his rest

B) It is having Mastery over my emotions

1) Not Striving – learning to quiet my heart – wait!

Do the next thing ! What is in front of me

4th He was concerned with God’s reputation –

Let not man prevail against you.

Lord if we are defeated, it is on you.