

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
JOTHAM'S GOOD REIGN IN JUDAH
2 KINGS 15:32-38; 2 CHRONICLES 27:1-9

Introduction

When we were last in the Southern Kingdom of **JUDAH** two weeks ago, we looked at the life of King **UZZIAH**! We saw how that **UZZIAH** was very successful until he was lifted up with pride and decided that he could go into the Temple and offer up sacrifice as if he were a priest. It did not end well!

Because of **UZZIAH'S** disobedience, he was inflicted with leprosy and lived out the rest of his days in a several house away from his kingdom, his family, and his friends. We saw how his son **JOTHAM** had to run the kingdom in the place of his father until his father finally died in his leprous condition!

Here we pick up after the death of **UZZIAH** and see the time when **JOTHAM** ruled the throne as king of **JUDAH** after his father's death. Our text here in **2 Kings 15** has only 7 verses concerning **JOTHAM**. In the **2 Chronicles 27** account there are only 9 verses. We will see in these accounts **JOTHAM'S** commitment to God and his success.

King **JOTHAM** lived a life a faith, a faith that set him apart, a faith that was steady and determined and today I want us to study these few verses on the reign of King **JOTHAM** and see what we can learn about living a life of faith.

We are mostly going to use **2 Chronicles 27** account tonight because it gives us a little more than **2 Kings 15** Account, but I will refer to both:

I. WE SEE THAT FAITH BEGINS WITH OBEDIENCE!

(2 Kings 15:34a; 2 Chronicles 27:2a)

"...he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD..."

From the many kings that we have seen that did evil in the sight of the **LORD**, this was a great testimony to **JOTHAM'S** character!

There is a story told about President Abraham Lincoln in the U.S. Civil War where he met with a group of ministers for a prayer breakfast. Lincoln was a man of deep, if at times unorthodox, faith. At one point one of the ministers said, "Mr. President, let us pray that God is on our side". Lincoln's response showed far greater insight, "No, gentlemen, let us pray that we are on God's side."

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If we want to live a life that is pleasing to the LORD, then we must first determine that we are going to live a life of obedience to Him!

A life of faith must have a beginning...a point of origin. There was a point in King **JOTHAM'S** life when he decided not to follow in his father's footsteps and become prideful, as his father **UZZIAH** did late in his reign as king of **JUDAH**.

There must be a point in our lives when we say, *"You know what? I'm not going there in the same path that brought nothing but pain and heartache to others. I'm not doing that, I'm going to follow the LORD!"*

Understand that we don't have the **LORD** on our side when we just **SAY** that we are going to be on **HIS** side!

A LIFE of FAITH is a WALK, NOT JUST A STEP! We who are Believers took a **STEP OF FAITH** when we believed on Jesus for our salvation **BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN HIM!**

Colossians 2:6-7—"6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."

A WALK of FAITH (i.e. a **LIFE of FAITH**) begins with that first **STEP OF FAITH** and then we **WALK IN FAITH** by **CHOOSING TO OBEY THE LORD** which is a choice that we are faced with every day!

AM I GOING TO WALK IN or DO WHAT IS EXPEDIENT FOR ME? Or, AM I GOING TO WALK IN or DO WHAT IS RIGHT IN THE EYES OF THE LORD? AM I GOING TO BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD and the way it expects me to live? Or, AM I GOING TO BE CONFORMED or rather TRANSFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST by OBEYING THE LORD in my WALK?

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Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

II. WE SEE THAT FAITH IS LEARNED FROM AND STRENGTHENED BY OTHER PEOPLE OF FAITH!
(2 Kings 15:34b; 2 Chronicles 27:2b)

*"...he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done."
"...And he did...according to all that his father Uzziah did."*

These verses speak of the early part of **UZZIAH'S** reign when *"...he did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD according to all that his father Amaziah had done."* (**2 Kings 15:3; 2 Chronicles 26:4**)

JOTHAM'S father had been a very successful king early in his reign as he **WALKED IN OBEDIENCE** to the **LORD!** And then he didn't guard his heart and pride entered in and brought his downfall!

There is no doubt that **JOTHAM** saw early in his father's reign what **LIVING A LIFE OF FAITH** should look like. There is no doubt that he saw how the **FAVOR OF THE LORD** rested on his father as long as he remained **OBEDIENT TO THE LORD!**

So, a **WALK OF FAITH** can be strengthened by others:

- A. By Showing Forth An Example Of What Walking In Faith Brings!** As I said, King Jotham no doubt saw the success his father King **UZZIAH** had in reign as long as he was faithful and obedient to God.
- B. By Showing Forth An Example Of What NOT Walking In Faith Brings!** When his dad fell from obedience to the **LORD** by pride and was chastened of the **LORD** with leprosy, there was a lesson also!

So, **JOTHAM** learned these great lessons from his father's example:

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*"As long as I'm walking in **FAITH** and **OBEDIENCE** to the **LORD**, then God will honor me. But if I choose to walk otherwise, it will not go well with me!"*

I have personally learned many lessons of **FAITH** and **OBEDIENCE** to the **LORD** over the years by watching those who have **DONE THAT WHICH WAS RIGHT IN THE EYES OF THE LORD** and the results it brought in their lives.

But sadly, I have also seen those who for a period of time **DID RIGHT IN THE EYES OF THE LORD AND WERE BLESSED** turn from that in their lives and begin doing that which was **NOT** pleasing in the eyes of the **LORD** and the mess their lives became!

WE SEE THAT FAITH BEGINS WITH OBEDIENCE... IS LEARNED FROM AND STRENGTHENED BY OTHER PEOPLE OF FAITH!

III. WE SEE THAT FAITH WILL SET US APART FROM LIVING CORRUPTLY LIKE OTHERS! (**2 Chronicles 27:2c**)

"...howbeit he entered not into the temple of the LORD. And the people did yet corruptly."

- A. JOTHAM Separated Himself From The Corrupt Ways Of His Father!**
He removed from himself the possibility of sinning in the same way his father did!
- B. JOTHAM Separated Himself From The Corrupt Ways Of His People!**
In the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, King **JOTHAM** continued his **WALK OF FAITH**.

He did NOT allow the prevailing culture of the day to dissuade him from his WALK WITH THE LORD! This is what is needed today also, because **we are living in the midst of an increasingly crooked and perverse society!**
(See Philippians 2:12-16)

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Many people (and sadly, even many Church people) are caught in the downward spiral of sin in this world along with the rest of the world that will ultimately lead to nothing good in their lives! We can't sin and then expect things to go well for us!

We, as Believers and true followers of Jesus Christ are to **WALK IN FAITH** and **LIVE OUT OUR FAITH** no matter how wicked those around us become! Again...
*Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**"*

We are to **PROVE OUT IN OUR LIVES** that a **LIFE OF FAITH IS THAT GOOD, AND ACCEPTABLE, AND PERFECT WILL OF GOD!**

Our **WALK OF FAITH** should show up in our lives the same as it did in the lives of those who are in the **HALL OF FAITH** chapter in *Hebrews 11!*

So, living a **LIFE OF FAITH** will cause us to set ourselves apart from living corruptly like the rest of the world!

IV. WE SEE A LIFE OF FAITH WILL CAUSE US TO SERVE GOD AND OTHERS!

2 Kings 15:35c—"He built the higher gate of the house of the LORD." 2 Chronicles 27:3-4—"3 He built the high gate of the house of the LORD, and the wall of Ophel he built much. 4 Moreover he built cities in the mountains of Judah, and in the forests he built castles and towers"

One of the first things he did had to do with repairing the Temple of the **LORD**. He served the **LORD first!** He went to work for the **LORD and did something for HIM!** He didn't enter the Temple like his father did in pride and try to do what he was never called to do, "*he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD*", he used his reign to serve the **LORD!** He showed that by repairing the Temple!

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A **LIFE OF FAITH** will cause **US** to **SERVE THE LORD** also! We will have a longing to **SERVE THE LORD** in some way that is helpful and pleasing to the **LORD** and His work and helpful for others!

The verse says "*Moreover he built cities in the mountains of Judah, and in the forests he built castles and towers.*" He began to **SERVE** the people, by providing places for them to live, and work, and play, but he also provided protection by building towers in the wooded areas, to protect them from raiders who wanted to rob and destroy these new settlements!

A life of faith will cause us to **SERVE THE LORD**, but it will also cause to **SERVE OTHERS** as well! We will have a servant's heart!

V. WE SEE A LIFE OF FAITH CAN CAUSE US TO PREVAIL IN LIFE'S BATTLES THAT WE FIND OURSELVES IN!

(2 Chronicles 27:5)

VI. WE SEE A LIFE OF FAITH WILL CAUSE US TO INCREASE IN OUR SPIRITUAL STRENGTH! (2 Chronicles 27:6)

That is the idea behind this verse. Spiritual strength does not come by being **passive** with regard to the **LORD!** Spiritual strength comes when one **prepares his ways before the LORD his God.**

Conclusion

What about **OUR WALK?** Can **OUR WALK** be described as a **WALK BY FAITH?**

Are **WE** living a determined **LIFE OF FAITH** by preparing **OUR** ways? Do we allow our own **FAITH WALK** to be strengthened by others—both by their "**FAITH SUCCESSES**" and their "**FAITH FAILURES**"!

Are you actively involved in **SERVING THE LORD** in some capacity? A true **LIFE OF FAITH** will cause us to not only desire that, but to actually **SERVE THE LORD** and **SERVE OTHERS** in some way or ways!