

**2 Chronicles 25 — “A Disturbing Example of Half-Hearted Commitment to God: The Reign of King Amaziah”***To live in a half-hearted way isn't good – for anything, especially in walking with God!*

What's the key for us? How do we get this? How do we follow him with a FULL heart??

We could summarize Amaziah's life: The King's **Victory**, his **Idolatry** & his **Apostasy**

Verse 2 - the key: “Amaziah did what was right ... *yet not with a whole heart*” [complete, full, total, devoted]

**WHAT DOES GOD WANT???**

- he wants EXCLUSIVE LOYALTY. (GOD IS FIRST)
- he wants TOTAL COMMITMENT. (GOD IS MINE)
- He wants INWARD OBEDIENCE. (GOD IS LORD)
- he wants COMPLETE TRUST (GOD IS GOOD)

**THESIS** — Trust in the LORD with all your heart! But guard from a half-hearted commitment to God. *What does a half-hearted commitment look like?*

I. A halfhearted commitment to God **MIGHT KNOW SCRIPTURE (1-4)**

II.A halfhearted commitment to God **CLOUDS JUDGMENT (5-8)**

III.A halfhearted commitment to God **CONFUSES MOTIVES (9-10)**

IV.A halfhearted commitment to God **FORGETS GRATITUDE (11-13)**

**2 Chronicles 25 — “A Disturbing Example of Half-Hearted Commitment to God: The Reign of King Amaziah”****V. A halfhearted commitment to God TOLERATES POLYTHEISM (14-16)**

*Polytheism is the worship of many gods: Yahweh + others; or, Christ + others; We see it around us; it's everywhere!*

The Lord was angry & sent a prophet to rebuke him.

Consider what happened:

1. a prideful moment (had the victory; no praise, no worship, no thanks)
2. a worshipful heart (longed for more victories, more power, wanted/longed for/craved/'needed')
3. a sacrificial offering (burned incense to them; Jer 11.12 - burn incense to gods)
4. a confrontational prophet (God's anger rose & he sent a mouthpiece [prophet] to rebuke him)
5. a stubborn response (interrupted him; who are you to *counsel me* >> **PRIDE**)

I John 5:21 -- guard yourselves from idols.

**VI. A halfhearted commitment to God IGNITES PRIDE (17-24)**

Josephus gives us more detail about what happened. “Now upon the victory that Amaziah had gotten, and the great acts he had done, he was puffed up, and began to overlook God, who had given him the victory...”

What are some ways that pride is manifested?

1. Caring more about worldly investments than about the LORD and His glory
2. In outbursts of rage when one is rebuked or slighted or confronted
3. In impatience when being contradicted by another
4. In a blatant turning of one's back away from GOD and His Word.

**VII. A halfhearted commitment to God DESTROYS TRUST (25-28)**

**Pride** is the *root* that leads to discontentment, ingratitude, covetousness, poverty, presumption, passion, extravagance, bigotry, war, and persecution.

This really happened and was the story of Amaziah.

He clearly knew truth, but turned from it. Here's the legacy of half-hearted life to God.

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What do we learn from these stories about men who *start well* but end *badly* (Joash, Amaziah, and others)?

1. We see God's patience with a fallen humanity [God sent prophets **twice!** Grace!]
2. We see the NT examples of those who fall away after receiving God's grace (think of Hymenaeus & Philetus who strayed from Truth; 2 Tim 2:16-18; see also Judas)
3. These accounts instruct and warn so that we don't fall into this pride (1 Cor 10:11-13). Learn from these examples (1 Cor 10:12!)
4. Being part of God's people is more than just genealogy, religiosity, external eye service, but it's a matter of the HEART (Rom 2:28).

Some final helps:

- ❖ *Follow Christ with a FULL heart* (**pursue** God)
- ❖ *Obey Scripture with a HUMBLE heart* (**practice** obedience)
- ❖ *Exalt God with a DELIGHTED heart* (**praise** God)
- ❖ *Welcome Accountability with an HONEST heart* (**protect** yourself)

Conclusion:

- To summarize: true faith/religion is **Heart-Work** — the continual practice/pursuit seeking the face of God.

But note: just as *halfhearted* commitment leads to terrible ruin, so *wholehearted* commitment to God and fully-devoted allegiance to God results in great rewards!

In many of the stories, God uses men to be His mouthpieces, or, prophets. They are used by God, they come on the stage, say what God calls them to say, say it, and then they disappear again.

In our chapter, we met two such “men of God.” They are totally unknown to us (not even named in our chapter!). But they were known to God. They are the prophets (25:7, 15). Be faithful to God & you'll receive a great reward (2 John 8)!

**Holy Holy Holy**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
 Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
 Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
 God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
 Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
 Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
 Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
 Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy  
 sea;  
 Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
 Who was, and is, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
 All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky,  
 and sea;  
 Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!  
 God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

**Before the Throne of God Above**

Before the throne of God above  
 I have a strong and perfect plea  
 A great High Priest whose name is love  
 Who ever lives and pleads for me  
 My name is graven on His hands  
 My name is written on His heart  
 I know that while in heav'n He stands  
 No tongue can bid me thence depart  
 No tongue can bid me thence depart

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb  
 My perfect, spotless Righteousness  
 The great unchangeable I AM  
 The King of glory and of grace  
 One with Himself, I cannot die  
 My soul is purchased by His blood  
 My life is hid with Christ on high  
 With Christ my Savior and my God  
 With Christ my Savior and my God

When Satan tempts me to despair  
 And tells me of the guilt within  
 Upward I look and see Him there  
 Who made an end of all my sin  
 Because the sinless Savior died  
 My sinful soul is counted free  
 For God the Just is satisfied  
 To look on Him and pardon me  
 To look on Him and pardon me