

Resolved: To Live Connected and Vibrant in Service to the Living Lord

When have you recognized that you haven't heard the voice of God in a while and your joy is gone? How does the busy Christian live "the long obedience in the same direction" with integrity? What does the word "surrender" look like on a daily basis, and how does personal resolve make a difference? In this workshop we will look at the lives of Old Testament kings and others in history to find out the blessing of finishing well.

Ann Pritchard Blaser has two degrees in education and taught school in the public school system. She has been actively involved in Bible Study Fellowship for thirty years training leaders and teaching women to study the Bible. She taught the study of Scripture for twenty-two years with classes of as many as 650 women and leadership groups of over seventy. Ann's ministry has recently changed and now she is advising and shepherding other teaching leaders. In addition to BSF she has traveled overseas to do women's conferences where she helps women to learn how to study the Bible systematically and how to write lectures and teach others. Ann and her husband Bill have two grown children who are following Christ and two young grandsons.

Introduction:

I. Rehoboam II Chronicles 12

A. Was established until he became strong - abandoned the law of the Lord

1. Taking others down with him – many faithful people who chose to live in Judah/Jerusalem in order to worship the One True God II Chron. 11:13-17

B. Abandoned by God

1. v6 the Lord is just
2. v6 Rehoboam humbled himself – Lord's anger turned (grace!)

C. II Timothy 2:14-3:17 Guarding the Scripture against error

D. Principle: Strength and success without God-directed resolve can lead to the abandonment of godliness.

E. Illus. Well known American pastor – apostasy and disgrace (Rob Bell)

- F. Application: Rehoboam was a mixture of practical wisdom and spiritual foolishness. If only he had combined the blessing of being established and strong, with the resolve to seek the Lord. Before there were kings in Israel, Moses commanded that they were to write with their own hand, a copy of the Law. They were to carry that hand written scroll with them and to read it all the days of their life (Deut. 17:18-20). Only one thing could keep any king on the right track: to meditate daily on the law of God. Without a regular intake of God's Word, none of us can stay on track. How are you doing with time in God's Word that is personal, systematic, and faithful? What are you studying that is not a part of your ministry preparation?

II. Asa II Chronicles 14

- A. Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God.
1. v.4 commanded Judah to seek the Lord...
 2. v.6 no one was at war with him during those years for the Lord gave him rest
 3. v.7 prosperity
- B. In battle:
1. v.11 prayer, dependence, faith
 2. v.12 the Lord struck down the Cushites
 3. II Chronicles 15:2 .The Lord is with you when you are with Him
 4. v.12 entered into covenant to seek Lord God with all heart and soul, v15 wholeheartedly.
 5. v.17 Asa's heart fully committed to Lord all his life (?)
- C. In old age - 36th year of his reign II Chronicles 16:1 aging, "The higher the hill, the stronger the wind."
1. v.2-3 Took gold and silver from temple to make a treaty – no prayer?
 2. v.7 Relied on King of Aram instead of Lord

3. v.9 For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are full committed to Him.
- D. Accountability II Chronicles 16:9
1. Seer who told him the truth – put in prison
 2. Brutally oppressed people
 3. Was afflicted with disease yet did not turn to Lord
- E. Why? Pride? Stubbornness? Need of ministry leaders to have people who will speak truth to us. Putting structure in place for accountability.
- F. Principle: Even the fully committed believer can fall prey to idolatry of self or reputation.
- G. Illus. 8 year old Robby – What did you worship this week? Convicted: "Mind craft, screen time, and myself." Teacher's response. Autopilot
- H. Application: What does it take to see the truth in a critique or criticism? How is a leader to respond to criticism? How can the leader keep a softened heart before the Lord? How can reputation become an idol?

III. Jehoshaphat II Chronicles 17

- A. 17:3-9 The Lord was with Jehoshaphat because in his early years he walked in the ways his father David had followed...
1. v10-19 He became rich and powerful
- B. 18:1 Allied himself with King Ahab of Israel
1. War? Seek counsel of the Lord
 2. 400 prophets vs one prophet of the Lord – Micaiah
 3. Set the scene – Jehoshaphat joined "the world" – even though he was not outwardly pagan

4. 18:31-32 , 19:1-2 God's protection of His own – discipline of His own
 5. 19: 4-11, 20: 5-18 Return to faithfulness – too late to change his own son
- C. Principle: Compromise or alliance with the world can lead to personal and professional disaster.
- D. Principle: Sometimes the believer is called to stand entirely alone.
- E. Illustration: Discussion with pastor. Loneliness due to position. Temptation to join the world, to compromise with worldliness.
- F. Application: The fruit of Jehoshaphat's alliance was a son, Jehoram, married to King Ahab's daughter: evil and ungodly. In what circumstance am I called to not compromise with the world or the methods of the world? In what place am I called to stand entirely alone but for God?

IV. Uzziah II Chronicles 26

- A. v4-5 Did what was right in eyes of Lord
1. Sought God during days of Zechariah who instructed him in fear of God
 2. As long as he sought Lord, God gave him success
- B. v6-15 military prowess
1. Defense fortifications, made machines to shoot arrows and hurl stones
 2. Became powerful - the "red lights" of leading others
- C. Pride led to downfall v 16-18
1. Entered temple to burn incense on altar of incense – work of priest
 2. Judgment – leprosy v 19
- D. Principle: Pride of accomplishment can lead to unfaithfulness to the Lord.

- E. Illustration: Unobserved sin – ice on the birdbath

- F. Application: In what place have my accomplishments led me to pridefulness? How am I called to agree with God in the small things and confess it as sin? When have I asked God to convict me of my unnoticed sin?

V. Hezekiah II Chronicles 29:1

- A. Revival – reinstatement of sacrifices, worship, singing, offerings rejoicing
 - 1. 29:3 First act was to open the doors of the temple and repair them – whole chapter speaks of purification
 - 2. 30:1 Passover - Invited Ephraim and Manasseh to celebrate
 - 3. Proclamation throughout Israel from Beersheba to Dan
 - 4. Couriers went from town to town – scorned and ridiculed, yet some humbled themselves and went to Jerusalem.
 - 5. God gave unity of mind – Like individuals here at the Forum
 - 6. Ritually unclean took part and Hezekiah prayed for them
 - 7. Great number of priests consecrated themselves
 - 8. Great joy in Jerusalem

- B. Principle: Responding with obedience in spite of risk and ridicule can result in great joy.

- C. In spite of doing right Sennacherib of Assyria besieged them. II Chronicles 32:1
 - 1. God allows trials even when believers are faithfully doing right.
 - 2. V 3-8 Preparation for threat of war includes the physical and spiritual

- D. Letter to cause demoralization II Kings 19:10-13
 - 1. A right response to threat II Kings 19:14-19 and 20-38
 - 2. The Lord's answer v35

- E. Principle: God loves to respond in power to the prayers of His faithful people.
- F. Illustration: Busyness of active ministry...what falls through the cracks? Prayer
- G. Application: What am I called to bring before God in believing prayer and spread out in front of Him for His attention?

VI. Josiah II Kings 22

- A. Eight years old when he became king.
 - 1. v 4-5 Importance of financial accountability
 - 2. v. 8 in 18th year of reign repaired the temple Book of Law found in temple of Lord.
 - 3. V.11 conviction - tore robes - responsive heart – desecrated, tore down, smashed, cut down, burned – words that describe removal of idolatry.
 - 4. II Kings 23: 1-3 - Impact on the kingdom – renewed covenant to follow the Lord – even for only his lifetime 22:19-20
 - 5. II Kings 23:25 - with all his heart and soul and with all his strength
 - 6. Revival – tearing down the high places – what does that look like in the believer's life?
- B. Principle: Revival of a nation can start with just one life.
- C. Illustration: Gypsy Smith – Revival
- D. What are my "high places"? What can I do to remain responsive before God? How can my personal revival be a catalyst in the lives around me?

Conclusion:

Suggested Reading

Google Jonathan Edwards Resolutions online.