

# TRUST IN GOD

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Trust in God is a fundamental principle of the Christian life. The apostle Paul was motivated by it to live a life of exemplary service. He wrote, “For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe” (I Tim. 4:10). Trust contains the concepts of assured reliance, confidence, and hope. While it virtually is impossible for the Christian to conceive of a life without trust in God, it remains true that every Christian would do well to examine the degree to which he or she actually does trust in God.

Assistance in doing just this will be gained from studying the life of the third king of Judah. The man who followed Rehoboam and Abijam was named Asa (910-869 BC). King Asa is spoken of in the most glowing of terms by the writer of the Chronicles, “And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God” (II Chron. 14:2). King Asa had a clear disdain for false, idolatrous worship practices. He destroyed the altars, the high places, the images, and the groves associated with the strange gods (II Chron. 14:3). In addition, even beyond that he “commanded Judah to seek the Lord God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment” (II Chron. 14:4). Maachah, the king’s own mother, was not exempt from scrutiny regarding fidelity to God. “He removed her from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove: and Asa cut down her idol, and stamped it, and burnt it at the brook Kidron” (II Chron. 15:16). When it came to an abhorrence of idolatry, “the heart of Asa was perfect all his days” (II Chron. 15:17). Resultantly, tranquility characterized the land of Judah for ten years (II Chron. 14:1, 5-7).

One of the most formidable battles in the history of the world took place between King Asa and Zerah the Ethiopian. Zerah had an army of a million men and three hundred chariots. The valley of Zephathah at Mareshah was the site of the Ethiopian’s defeat. King Asa’s prayer clearly is the reason for the resounding victory. The Chronicler reported, “And Asa cried unto the Lord his God, and said, Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee” (II Chron. 14:11). The golden gem of truth about trust in God to be gleaned from King Asa emerges from a statement made to him by the prophet Azariah the son of

Oded. He said, “Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The Lord is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you” (II Chron. 15:2).

King Asa’s greatest tests: The first test came when Baasha, king of Israel, began to oppress Judah. King Asa did not trust in God to deliver Judah. Instead, he turned to Benhadad, king of Syria. King Asa paid him in gold and silver out of the treasure house of the Lord for assistance. Hanani the seer told King Asa, “Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the Lord thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand” (II Chron. 16:7). There would be war from then on. King Asa did not like Hanani’s message and even was in a rage when he put Hanani into prison, but that did not change things. Trust in God, known and experienced in a commendable degree by this king of Judah, was lacking when it would have accomplished the greatest good for him and his nation. The second test was more personal. With advancing age, King Asa became diseased in his feet. His disease was “exceeding great.” Why someone so great would not look to God at such a time of personal need is baffling, but the Bible says, “Yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord, but to the physicians” (II Chron. 16:12).

Trust in God can be a life long benefit, but it is a blessing contingent upon remaining aligned with God and continually seeking him throughout every one of life’s challenges no matter how great or personal. “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Prov. 3:5-6).