

Ii Chronicles 16:7

by Chuck Smith

Relying on God is crucial for spiritual success and avoiding the dangers of self-reliance.

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 14:11, 2 Chronicles 16:7-9, Psalm 20:7, Psalm 37:5, Proverbs 3:5-6, Isaiah 41:10, Jeremiah 17:5-7, Matthew 6:33, Philippians 4:13, 1 Peter 5:7

Topics: "Self-Reliance", "Relying on God"

Description

Chuck Smith emphasizes the critical importance of relying on God, as demonstrated by King Asa's initial faithfulness in seeking the Lord during a time of crisis against the Ethiopians. Asa's reliance on God led to victory and prosperity, but as he experienced success, he fell into the trap of self-reliance, seeking help from the king of Syria instead of God. This shift ultimately opened the door for future troubles, illustrating the danger of not depending on God in both big and small challenges. Smith highlights that God actively seeks those who will trust Him completely, reminding us that true strength comes from reliance on the Lord.

Transcript

"RELYING ON GOD"

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF RELYING ON GOD.

A. Asa began his career as king with spiritual reformation.

1. He rid the land of the images and places of worship of the false gods.

2. He ordered the people to worship Jehovah and to keep his law.

B. The Ethiopians invaded the land with a huge host of one million men and 300 chariots.

1. King Asa relied on the Lord.

- a. His wonderful prayer of dependence, 14: 11.
- b. The Lord smote the Ethiopians.
- C. His kingdom became strong and prosperous.
 - 1. God's message to him through the prophet, "If you seek the Lord."
- D. The glorious covenant they made to seek Jehovah with all their heart and soul.
- E. The ensuing years of power and success brought a subtle danger.
 - 1. Self-reliance.
- F. King Baasha began to build a fortified city against him.
 - 1. Rather than relying on the Lord he called on the king of Syria.
 - 2. Baasha wasn't that strong, nothing compared to the Ethiopians.
- a. Strange how well we can fare in the big problems yet stumble in the small trials.
- b. Big problems we know we must rely on God.
- c. Small ones we often take the attitude it's all right Lord, I don't need you, I can handle this one.
- G. His strategy was successful in opening the second front against Baasha, they defeated him.
 - 1. Yet he developed a pattern that ultimately cost him his life.

II. GOD'S WARNING AGAINST SELF-RELIANCE.

- A. He may have gained a temporary advantage over Baasha but he has opened the door for Syria to return and invade whole land.

III. THE GLORIOUS TRUTH OF GOD REVEALED. "The eyes of the Lord go to and fro."

A. God is not passive in His desire to bless you, but active.

B. How God gives.

1. Men, three basic types.

a. Those you must sell on idea.

b. Those who lust need to know.

c. Those who are looking for place.

2. Some picture God as giving as the first type others as the 2nd.

3. The prophet revealed that the third type best typifies God.

C. God is just looking for those who will rely totally on Him.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/chuck-smith/ii-chronicles-167/>

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