

**God's Calling Requirments**  
**Part 35**  
**How To Maintain Your Achievements.**

*"1 And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him. 2 And it came to pass, that in the fifth year of king Rehoboam Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had transgressed against the LORD, 3 With twelve hundred chariots, and threescore thousand horsemen: and the people were without number that came with him out of Egypt; the Lubims, the Sukkiims, and the Ethiopians. 4 And he took the fenced cities which pertained to Judah, and came to Jerusalem. 5 Then came Shemaiah the prophet to Rehoboam, and to the princes of Judah, that were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, Ye have forsaken me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak. 6 Whereupon the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, The LORD is righteous. 7 And when the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance; and my wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak. 8 Nevertheless they shall be his servants; that they may know my service, and the service of the kingdoms of the countries. 9 So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he took all: he carried away also the shields of gold which Solomon had made. 10 Instead of which king Rehoboam made shields of brass, and committed them to the hands of the chief of the guard, that kept the entrance of the king's house. 11 And when the king entered into the house of the LORD, the guard came and fetched them, and brought them again into the guard chamber. 12 And when he humbled himself, the wrath of the LORD turned from him, that he would not destroy him altogether: and also in Judah things went well. 13 So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem, and reigned: for Rehoboam was one and forty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. 14 And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD. 15 Now the acts of Rehoboam, first and last, are they not written in the book of Shemaiah the prophet, and of Iddo the seer concerning genealogies? And there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually. 16 And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David: and Abijah his son reigned in his stead." (2Chronicles 12:1-16)*

We have read how Rehoboam and the people with him worked hard for three years to build up what God had placed and kept in their hands. In this message we will study from the pitfalls of Rehoboam how we can maintain our achievements.

**1- Avoid relaxation and stage of coldness and backsliding after God would build you up:** Rehoboam and the people with him worked hard for three years to build up what God had placed and kept in his hand. *1 And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him.* Rehoboam, he and the people with him after they are established they started to forsake the Lord. It will not help you and do you good when you do such things. Don't belittle the grace of God and the goodness of the Lord toward you. scrutinize

**2- Be persistant in your endeavour to serve God and to live for Him:** The three years of persistent work that Rehoboam and his people get involved in followed by two years of spiritual backsliding. Some people are only good when they are in troubles, but once they are released then they will not do well. Such kind of people God will not approve. God will not approve people who keep just the passing level. God's passing level is total and persistent commitment. Such kinds of people are not conscious of God, but are only conscious when troubles come. Put it always in your mind that any period of relaxation and lack of commitment will be ended up with another trouble in your life.

**3- Avoid and hate sin as God hate them:** *2 And it came to pass, that in the fifth year of king Rehoboam Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had transgressed against the LORD,* The question why and how they transgressed against the Lord? Let us read what the bible speak more about the life of King Rehoboam:

*"21 And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD did choose out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. 22 And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done. 23 For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree. 24 And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel. 25 And it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem: 26 And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he even took away all: and he took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made. 27 And king Rehoboam made in their stead brasen shields, and committed them unto the hands of the chief of the guard, which kept the door of the king's house. 28 And it was so, when the king went into the house of the LORD, that the guard bare them, and brought them back into the guard chamber. 29 Now the rest of the acts of Rehoboam, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 30 And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days. 31 And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. And Abijam his son reigned in his stead." (1Kings 14:21-31)* Rehoboam and the people with him did the following evils, *"22 And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done. 23 For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree. 24 And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel."* They built and spent not only on unnecessary things but on things that God prohibited and are harmful, and in this way they made God jealous of them and they added to the sins of their fathers.

**A- For they also built them high places:** The high places are collateral places that they were prohibited to worship God in them. They have a centralized form of worship where they need to do inside the temple of God in Jerusalem under the supervision of the priest and not in other places. The people go to the high places where they can do their own and what they like

without the scrutinization of the priests of the temple. On the high places they spent and they put their treasures in these collateral places on things that not of the will of God.

**B- Images:** These are idols and figures that they admire, adorn and put their trust on, and did not put their trust on the Lord or on His words and commands. They spent on all these things instead of spending and dedicating what they have unto God.

**C- Groves:** *“Thou shalt not plant thee a grove of any trees near unto the altar of the Lord thy God, which thou shalt make thee.” (Deuteronomy 16:21)* Groves are gardens planted and beautified around altars in order to make the worship more appealing to the sensual senses of the people. Now a day, beautiful dress and attire with costly decoration, food, music and sound effects, and other pride sensual appeal, are used by churches to attract and appeal to the sensual sensation of the people. God does not want people to come to Him because they are attracted to other things.

**D- There were also sodomites in the land:** Homosexuals where also in the land. Homosexuality is not only a sin as in adultery, stealing or idol worship. But Homosexuality is abomination, *“Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.” (Leviticus 18:22)* Incest, sex with animal are another abominations mentioned in *Leviticus 18*. Offering children to devil and make them walk through fire and destroying their lives with ungodly practices is another abomination, *“Thou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God: for every abomination to the Lord, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.” (Deuteronomy 12:31)*

**There were also sodomites in the land,** and let us put in this way, **There were also \_\_\_\_\_ in the land:** It means that they had tolerated the sins and did not bother them or got disturbed with it. Abomination means abhor or something hated. When people acquainted and adjusted themselves to live with sins and can live with and not hated them, this is then the time that God’s anger and jealousy will be kindled out against them.

**E- And they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel:** When the church people do the same or more than the non believers or the people who did not know God, then that is the time for God to act to discipline His people.

God did the following to discipline His people, *“2 And it came to pass, that in the fifth year of king Rehoboam Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had transgressed against the LORD, 3 With twelve hundred chariots, and threescore thousand horsemen: and the people were without number that came with him out of Egypt; the Lubims, the Sukkiims, and the Ethiopians. 4 And he took the fenced cities which pertained to Judah, and came to Jerusalem.” (2Chronicles 14:2-4)* The meaning of Shishak is "greedy of fine linen." God will send you someone greedy to discipline you and makes you value, that you should not spent what God gave you on other things. Economic penalties, fines, bankruptcies, theft are all can be used by God to discipline His people who had squandered what God gave them on their worldly ways of life and on their high places. *“9 So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he took all: he carried away also the shields of*

*gold which Solomon had made.” (2Chronicles 12:9)* The people of God will get impoverished when they are ending up doing the abomination that God hates. This kind of poverty and impoverishment is caused by sin and is different than the other kind of poverty. When King Rehoboam lost his treasures he replaced the shields of gold that Shishak took with shields of bronze. That is not a stewardship in order to save, but that he was forced to replace them with bronze because nothing was left for him. Put it a point in your mind, if you will not know how to behave then just wait for Shishak to come upon you and will take everything from you. Those who fear God and live for Him, even if they are attacked with enemies like Shishak, their treasures will be preserved because they had honored God and valued the things that He gave them.

**4- Heed the explanation that God had sent to explain to you the causes of the real situation that you are passing through:** *“5 Then came Shemaiah the prophet to Rehoboam, and to the princes of Judah, that were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, Ye have forsaken me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak.”* Rehoboam and the people gathered with him in Jerusalem, and that represent the church in the New Testament, God sent them His message through *Shemaiah the prophet*. Therefore be thankful that God had placed you in His church and had put men of God to guide you and to direct you in the way that you should go. Those are the very people who will correct you when you err in your ways, therefore heed their instructions.

**5- Humble down and accept your sins:** *“6 Whereupon the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, The LORD is righteous.”* God’s wrath will turn away from you when you accept that what God did is the result of your very fault. Do not justify yourself and put excuses to clear your side. Rebelliousness and non willingness to humble down will not relief your life from the miserable situation. When Rehoboam humbled down God ameliorate the catastrophe, *“7 And when the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance; and my wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak.”* But as a consequence of their sins God allowed their treasures to be taken away, *“9 So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he took all: he carried away also the shields of gold which Solomon had made.”*

**6- Repent and not only humble down:** Rehoboam and the people with him they humbled before God and accepted their fault but they did not repent. They did not change their minds to amend their ways. *“8 Nevertheless they shall be his servants; that they may know my service, and the service of the kingdoms of the countries.”* The Lord allowed them to be under the bondage of Shishak because they were not deciding to give up their own sins and wrong ways of life. If they would have repented the Lord would not allow them to be enslaved and controlled by a greedy person or greedy people. This is a kind of backsliding where you find humility mixed with non willingness to amend in their wrong ways of life and living. Externally things will go well but the people were still in bondage, and have no relief because they have no repentance. *“12 And when he humbled himself, the wrath of the LORD turned from him, that he would not destroy him altogether: and also in Judah things went well.”* The incident of Shishak happened on the fifth year of his reign but he continued his life without radical change or repentance till he died: *“13 So king Rehoboam strengthened*

*himself in Jerusalem, and reigned: for Rehoboam was one and forty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess.*" God does not like a lukewarm Christian who lives and meddles with sin, "16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. 17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: 18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see." (Revelation 3:16-18) God does not like a lukewarm Christian because they will affect the testimony of His church as Rehoboam and the people with him affected the testimony of Jerusalem.

**7- Avoid the marriages with non believer because that could be the cause of persistence backsliding:** The mother of Rehoboam was an Ammonitess and that could be the factor contributed to his persistence in backsliding, "13 So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem, and reigned: for Rehoboam was one and forty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess."

**8- Refrain from doing evil:** "14 And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD." Avoid all kinds of evil, "22 Abstain from all appearance of evil." (1Thessalonians 5:22)

**9- Set your heart to seek the Lord:** "14 And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD." Rehoboam was instructed with Shemaiah the prophet, and with Iddo the seer, but he himself did not seek the Lord and discover the truth and the ways of God by himself. People who only listen will not be convinced much to do unless they discover the truth by themselves, and for this reason they need to set their hearts to seek God. You need to seek God yourself to see the wonders in His Word so you can see clearly your sins, so you can turn to God in repentance and start to serve Him in an ordained way. Seeking the truth will forward in front of you the real mandate to serve God and bring you into full dedication unto Him.

**10- Always Keep seeking God and serve Him and He will deliver you from all your enemies:** Rehoboam was attacked by Shishak, and as we explained earlier the meaning of Shishak is "greedy of fine linen." So around you are greedy people to take advantage of you. Another enemy was in front of Rehoboam was Jeroboam, "And there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually." And the meaning of Jeroboam is "the people will contend." So around you also are peoples who used by devil to fight against you. And the meaning of Rehoboam is "a people has enlarged." So God had called you to bless you and enlarge you therefore you need to continue to seek Him, who will protect you from all your enemies. Seeking God will put you in the center of God's will and will help you to be always victorious in fighting your battles against the devil our enemy.

**11- Let your life be transparent to those who leads you in the Lord:** "15 Now the acts of Rehoboam, first and last, are they not written in the book of Shemaiah the prophet, and of Iddo the seer concerning genealogies?" Rehoboam was guided spiritually by Shemaiah the

prophet and by Iddo the seer. Shemaiah means "heard by Jehovah", and Iddo means "His witness." Therefore surround yourself with such kind of dedicated people who fear God and walk in His ways, and who can help you and gives you hand of guidance when you are in need.

**12- Always put in your mind that you need to prepare the next generation to be ready to lead after your, when season had finished:** "16 And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David: and Abijah his son reigned in his stead." Abia or Abiah or Abijah means "Jehovah is (my) father."

**My dear and beloved:** "19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." (Revelation 3:19) God is rebuking you because he loves you and He had called you to spend eternity with Him. Therefore *be zealous therefore, and repent.* Accept the discipline and the correction of God and start to seek His word to discover the truth, and to love it and to live it and to build your life on it, so that His presence, His blessings, and His reward shall be upon you, "20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. 22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." (Revelation 3:20-22) As you agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your words that had opened my eyes to see the truth. Lord I humble myself before you, and accepting my following faults \_\_\_\_\_. Lord I repent from the following sins \_\_\_\_\_. Lord I commit myself to seek you and the truth of your word, and to apply all the principles of this message in my life to go forward working with your plan of restoration. Lord I trust you that you will strengthen me and you will be providing all my needs. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

For more spiritual enrichment please visit our website at:  
[www.churchofgoduae.com](http://www.churchofgoduae.com)



Vol. 18

Issue 5

Share the message with a friend.