

God's Calling Requirements
Part 20

“1 And Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead, and strengthened himself against Israel. 2 And he placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken. 3 And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim; 4 But sought to the LORD God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel. 5 Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance. 6 And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah. 7 Also in the third year of his reign he sent to his princes, even to Benhail, and to Obadiah, and to Zechariah, and to Nethaneel, and to Michaiiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. 8 And with them he sent Levites, even Shemaiah, and Nethaniah, and Zebadiah, and Asahel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehonathan, and Adonijah, and Tobijah, and Tobadonijah, Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, priests. 9 And they taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the LORD with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people. 10 And the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat. 11 Also some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents, and tribute silver; and the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand and seven hundred rams, and seven thousand and seven hundred he goats. 12 And Jehoshaphat waxed great exceedingly; and he built in Judah castles, and cities of store. 13 And he had much business in the cities of Judah: and the men of war, mighty men of valour, were in Jerusalem. 14 And these are the numbers of them according to the house of their fathers: Of Judah, the captains of thousands; Adnah the chief, and with him mighty men of valour three hundred thousand. 15 And next to him was Jehohanan the captain, and with him two hundred and fourscore thousand. 16 And next him was Amasiah the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself unto the LORD; and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valour. 17 And of Benjamin; Eliada a mighty man of valour, and with him armed men with bow and shield two hundred thousand. 18 And next him was Jehozabad, and with him an hundred and fourscore thousand ready prepared for the war. 19 These waited on the king, beside those whom the king put in the fenced cities throughout all Judah. 1 Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab. 2 And after certain years he went down to Ahab to Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that he had with him, and persuaded him to go up with him to Ramothgilead” (2Chronicles 17-18:2)

The life of Jehoshaphat and his respond to God's call will teach you more beautiful lessons and how you will be raised up to serve God and in effective and fruitful way. Jehoshaphat became a king after the death of his father Asa the king. Once he got the kingdom he went forward to strengthen himself against Israel who were separated from the house of David and who had went away far from God and from His word and away from obeying His commands. From the life of King Jehoshaphat you can learn important lessons of how you response appropriately to the call of God.

1- Continue to do and maintain the good things that those previous to you had started: Jehoshaphat continued and maintained what his father Asa started, ***“2 And he placed forces in***

all the fenced cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken. The good work that those previous to you started you needs to continue in doing it. Jehoshaphat continued in the same stand of Asa to protect and govern his kingdom and continued in the same stand to be separated from Israel (the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom that went away from the house of David and Judah.) Therefore continue to do the good things that those previous to you had started in maintaining and preserving the church.

2- Continue to follow the example of worthy church leaders whom their walk shows the truth, “7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.” (Hebrews 13:7) Jehoshaphat walked in the first ways of his father David, ***“3 And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim;”*** From David to Jehoshaphat, those are the kings, Solomon, Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa then Jehoshaphat. So he was the sixth king from David. So there is a considerable and long period of many years that separated Jehoshaphat from David. But since he became king, Jehoshaphat started to walk and followed God in the first ways of his father David. It seems that what he heard about David, he searched more about him and most likely he read the writing of Samuel and David and concluded further how David lived for God and followed the commands that God gave to Moses. Following the example of David who was following and abiding with God's will and commands brought Jehoshaphat to a position that the Lord was with him.

3- Seek God through His word and reject the evil practices that other using in the ministry: “and sought not unto Baalim; 4 But sought to the LORD God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel.” Jehoshaphat took a distance and avoided the worship of Baal that was introduced in Israel by Jezebel the wife of King Ahab. In such worship immorality is honored, and pride, boasting and showing of is part of it. Jehoshaphat did not imitate the wrong practices and the evil method of ministry that were going on around him. Instead he started to seek God and he did that by reading and meditating on God's word, and when he did that, he found the commands of God that he started to walk on them and obey them. Read your bible and continue to meditate on God's word, do not meditate or imitate the people or the ministries around you, but, obey and apply the commands of God in your life.

4- Move away from people and churches who called themselves Christians but they are not true disciples of Jesus: “4 But sought to the LORD God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel.” Jehoshaphat did not go after the doing of Israel. The Israelites they worshipped God in a wrong way. They have their own idols and programs that are not based on God's word and commands. Now a day many of what is called Christian churches or workers they are not serving based on God's word. But parties and various worldly feast and celebrations (birthday's parties, sport feast, auction feast, family night, basketball tournaments, etc.) had been introduced into the church in contradiction to God's word or commands. Such kind of Christians and churches they honors and entertain demonic inspired things (Spiderman, Superman, Bin ten, Aliens, etc.) Avoid to get infected and get involved with such things. Try to educate such people to move away from such wrong practices but if they are not willing and they are so engrossed with, then you need to leave them and move away from them. Come out from such things and be back to God's call and respond appropriately to Him.

5- God will establish your ministry when you respond in such a way to His calling: “5 Therefore the LORD established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance.” Those who honored God, the Lord shall honor and He will add to them riches and favor. When Jehoshaphat did good, the Lord established him and caused his people to bring gifts to him. God will do the same to you as you honor him and willing to obey and abide with His will and instructions.

6- Let your heart be lift up more to draw near heavenward toward God: “6 And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah.” When God was gracious and good to Jehoshaphat, he in return did better with God. When God is rewarding you and bestowing more honors on you then you draw near to God and be more good to Him. Jehoshaphat showed more dedication to God and moved away from the people wrong practices. He became more strict and removed more of the high places and the groves out of Judah. These are the places that people were worshipping God but in a wrong way. Therefore do the same and draw near to God and away from the wrong practices of the people. And do not follow the example of the unfaithful who move away from God when He gives to them riches and honor. Don't take advantage of God and turn away from Him toward the world when he is blessing you. In serving the Lord you are moving up from level to a higher one when you show you are faithful to God. He will lift you up to a higher level when you prove your faithfulness to Him.

7- Carry your bible and go forward and teach God's word to the people around you, and train others to do the same: “7 Also in the third year of his reign he sent to his princes, even to Benhail, and to Obadiah, and to Zechariah, and to Nethaneel, and to Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. 8 And with them he sent Levites, even Shemaiah, and Nethaniah, and Zebadiah, and Asahel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehonathan, and Adonijah, and Tobijah, and Tobadonijah, Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, priests. 9 And they taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the LORD with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people.” Further spiritual warfare instrument that Jehoshaphat used, is when he trained others to follow what he learned from God, and then he sent them forward to teach others. Carrying the bible everywhere you go and move and teaching others is an honor and faithful attitude toward God. The Lord would reward such attitude as He honored Jehoshaphat, **10 And the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat.** You cannot go and fight other people and you cannot go and stop them from making war against you. But as you obey God and serve Him and teach others His ways then He will be the one to fight for you. Not only that, but God will add to you more riches and treasures and more of material blessings, **“11 Also some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents, and tribute silver; and the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand and seven hundred rams, and seven thousand and seven hundred he goats.”**

8- Use what God gives to you to further the ministry and the service of God: “12 And Jehoshaphat waxed great exceedingly; and he built in Judah castles, and cities of store.” Jehoshaphat got involved with and builds up more ministries and used what God gave him to promote God's business, **“13 And he had much business in the cities of Judah: and the men of war, mighty men of valour, were in Jerusalem.”** So you can see that there is escalation in the way that God promote Jehoshaphat and brought him up because he was faithful to God, and

the Lord gave him a big army that was beyond one million. As well as God gave him people who willingly offered themselves to the Lord, **“16 And next him was Amasiah the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself unto the LORD; and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valour.”** The same will God do to you when He found you faithful and doing your best to promote God's work and God's business. He will add more to you and will bring people to you who will offer themselves willingly to the work of God. Do not follow other people, when God is giving to them and add to them and blessing them, you find them moving away from the ways of God and they got busy with their own life and business. Such attitude do not adopt because it will not brings blessings to you and will not promote you or your ministry.

9- Never go down and do what Jehoshaphat did in making affinity with non committed people: “1 Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab. 2 And after certain years he went down to Ahab to Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that he had with him, and persuaded him to go up with him to Ramothgilead.” God blessed Jehoshaphat and he was so faithful with God, but that affinity that he did with a person and people who had left God and his commands like Ahab and the people of Israel was not a correct step and the Lord was not pleased with, and Jehoshaphat was rebuked for that, **“1 And Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem. 2 And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD. 3 Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God.”** (2Chronicles 19:1-3) and if you will read the sequence of events after the death of Jehoshaphat you will find out how the family of Ahab was introduced in Judah and promoted havoc in God's Kingdom (Read 2Chronicles chapters 21-23 in your own bible).

My dear and beloved: God's word is what we need today to abide and to apply. Go through the message and study it and study yourself and see where you are and what you need to do to be in line with God's will and His word 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 death to give me eternal life. Lord forgive me for being complacent in obeying your words and commands and getting involved more with the worldly ways along with the other people around me. Lord I repent of the following sins _____. Lord I lift up my heart to delight in your ways and in obeying your commands. Lord I commit myself to continue to carry my bible and to go and move to places as you lead me to teach others your word and commands. Lord I commit myself to be faithful to you in the way of using and employing the resources that you gave me for your will and glory. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Jesus Christ

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