

# God's Calling Requirements

## Part 20

### Lessons from the Life of King Jehoshaphat

*"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 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. 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" (2 Chronicles 17-18:2 KJV)*

The life of Jehoshaphat and his response to God's call will teach you more beautiful lessons and how you will be raised up to serve God and in an 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 respond appropriately to the call of God.

1. Be aware, and avoid totally those who caused division and separated themselves from the Church of God: "And Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead, and strengthened himself against Israel." (2 Chronicles 17:1 KJV) "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us." (1 John 2:19 KJV)

2. Continue to do and maintain the good things that those previous to you had started: Jehoshaphat continued and maintained what his father Asa started, "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." (2 Chronicles 17:2 KJV) The good work that those previous to you started you need 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 running after their own idols.) Therefore continue to do the good things that those previous to you had started in maintaining and preserving the church. Continue to separate yourself from the idols that those who left the church are turning after.

For a good reminder, the following are some of these idols that we need to be persistent to fight against. Although we have discussed that before, some of us still needed to be reminded to completely give up all these idols and their wrong practices.

A. The idol of lust in the form of sexual immorality in the form of dating and courting, having boyfriend and girlfriend, fornication, adultery, unlawful marriages in the form of accepting marriages with non believers, accepting divorce with remarriage, and accepting a single father or a single mother to marry someone other than the mother or the father of his or her child or children.

B. Idols and the food sacrificed for idols as described here.

- The celebration of Christmas after the sun god of the heathen. With its Santa Claus, the tree, laziness with the long holidays of 2-3 weeks, the exchange of gifts, the banquets, and lavish spending, all this was done by the pagan for their sun god in their celebrations. That feast of pagans was Christianized by the Catholic Church and till this day the Christian churches are infected with all the above mentioned practices that are totally not Biblical.
- The New Year celebration. The celebration of birthdays and wedding anniversaries, events and celebrations glorifying men and not God. Again such pagan celebrations have taken its roots from the world and not from the Scriptures and got adapted into God's church.
- Father's Day and Mother's Day celebrations, taken from the world and introduced into the church.
- Halloween (Harvest), All Saints Day, Valentine's Day, Pastor's Month, First girl celebration, and you can add more to the list, for almost every culture and ethnic group had added certain idols and days for celebration, without any Biblical reason, into the life of the church.

C. The idol of greed, the love of money, and covetousness, "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God." (Ephesians 5:5 KJV) "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry." (Colossians 3:5 KJV)

3. **Continue to follow the example of worthy church leaders whom with their walk shows the truth:** “And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David.” (2 Chronicles 17:3 KJV) In the New Testament we are admonished with this instruction: “Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.” (Hebrews 13:7 KJV) 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.” (2 Chronicles 17:3 KJV) From David to Jehoshaphat, those are the kings, Solomon, Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa then Jehoshaphat. So he was the sixth king from David. So there was 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, that brought Jehoshaphat to a position, that the Lord was with him.

In the same way God shall be with us if we seek Him. We will be able to achieve that by following the example of the Godly leaders and in following the examples of those holy men of God that the Scriptures illustrates to us their lives.

4. **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.” (2 Chronicles 17:3-4 KJV) 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, and that he started to walk on them and obey them. Therefore, 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.

5. **Move away from people and churches who called themselves Christians but they are not true disciples of Jesus:** “But sought to the LORD God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel.” (2 Chronicles 17:4 KJV) 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 and 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.) All these had been introduced into the church in contradiction to God’s Word and commands. Such kind of Christians and churches they honors and entertain demonic inspired things (Spiderman, Superman, Bin ten, Aliens, etc.) Therefore, avoid to get infected and get involved with such churches and in such things.

But you may 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.

6. **God will establish your ministry when you respond in such a way to His calling:** “Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance.” (2 Chronicles 17:5 KJV) Those who honored God, the Lord shall honor and He will add to them riches and favor. When Jehoshaphat did well, 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 be willing to obey and abide with His will and instructions. Fear God and refrain from all these evil practices and the Lord shall lift you up.

7. **Let your heart be lift up more to draw more heavenward toward God:** “And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah.” (2 Chronicles 17:6 KJV) 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 have to 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 stricter and removed more of the high places and the groves out of Judah, “Moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah.” (2 Chronicles 17:6 KJV) These are the places that people were worshipping God but in a wrong way.

- Therefore do the same and draw near to God, and move away from the wrong practices of the people.
- 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 and toward idols when he is blessing you. In serving the Lord you will be moving up from level to a higher one when you show you are faithful to God.
- The Lord shall 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 Michaiiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. 8 And with them he sent Levites, even Shemaiah, and Nathaniah, 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.” (2 Chronicles 17:7-9 KJV) Further spiritual warfare instrument that Jehoshaphat used, is when he trained others to follow what he learned from God, and 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 shall reward such attitude as He honored Jehoshaphat, “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.” (2 Chronicles 17:10 KJV) 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 and His Word, 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 as He added to Jehoshaphat. “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.” (2 Chronicles 17:11 KJV)

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.” (2 Chronicles 17:12 KJV) Jehoshaphat got involved with and builds up more ministries and used what God gave him to promote God’s business, “And he had much business in the cities of Judah: and the men of war, mighty men of valour, were in Jerusalem.” (2 Chronicles 17:13 KJV) So you can see that there was escalation in the way that God promoted Jehoshaphat, and brought him up because he was faithful to God. The Lord gave him a big army that was beyond one million. “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.” (2 Chronicles 17:14-15 KJV) 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. 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.” (2 Chronicles 17:16-19 KJV) 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 the bad example of 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 move and get busy with their own life and business. Such attitude do not adopt, because it will neither brings blessings to you nor promote you or your ministry.

9. Never go down and do what Jehoshaphat did in making affinity with non committed people and intermarry with them: “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.” (2 Chronicles 18:1-2 KJV) 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. Therefore, 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.” (2 Chronicles 19:1-3) If you will read the sequence of events, in 2 Chronicles chapters 21-23, after the death of Jehoshaphat, you will find out how the family of Ahab that was introduced in Judah had promoted havoc in God’s Kingdom by introducing Baal worship in Jerusalem. (Please read 2 Chronicles chapters 21-23 in your own Bible).

Never ever, allow such kind of marriages with non believers to be taken place in the life of the church, where idol worship and worldliness will be introduced into God’s church, and that ultimately will promote havoc.

My dear and beloved: God’s Word is what we need today to abide with and to apply in our lives. Let us go again through the principles that we learned in this message and study it and check ourselves and see where we are and what we need to do to be in line with God’s will and His Word:

1. Be aware, and avoid totally those who caused division and separated themselves from the Church of God.
2. Continue to separate yourself from the idols that those who left the church are tunnig after.
3. Continue to do and maintain the good things that those previous to you had started.
4. Continue to follow the example of worthy church leaders whom their walk shows the truth.
5. Continue to follow the examples of those holy men of God that the Scriptures illustrates to us their lives. God shall be with us if we seek Him in such a way.
6. Seek God through His Word and reject the evil practices that other using in the ministry:
7. Therefore, 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.
8. Move away from people and churches who called themselves Christians but they are not true disciples of Jesus. Therefore, avoid to get infected or get involved with such churches and in their activities.
9. You may 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.
10. God will establish your ministry when you respond in such a honest way, to His calling.
11. When you fear God and do refrain from all the evil practices that others are doing in the ministry, the Lord shall lift you up and reward you.
12. Let your heart be lift up more to draw more heavenward toward God.
13. When God is rewarding you and bestowing more honors on you then you have to draw near to God and be more good to Him.
14. Do not follow the example of the unfaithful who move away from God when He gives to them riches and honor.
15. Don’t take advantage of God and turn away from Him toward the world and toward idols when he is blessing you. In serving the Lord you will be moving up from level to a higher one when you show you are faithful to God.
16. Do not follow the bad example of 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 move and get busy with their own life and business. Such attitude do not adopt because it will neither brings blessings to you nor promote you or your ministry.
17. Carry your Bible and go forward and teach God’s Word to the people around you, and train others to do the same.
18. Use what God gives to you to further the ministry and the service of God.



19. Never go down and do what Jehoshaphat did in making affinity with non committed people and intermarry with them.

20. Never ever, allow such kind of marriages with non believers to be taken place in the life of the church, where idol worship and worldliness will be introduced into God's church, and that ultimately will promote havoc.

**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 forgives me for being complacent in obeying your Word 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 renounce them all.*

*Let us confess and repent of our sins.*

*Lord I commit myself to move away from the following idols \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Lord I lift up my heart to delight in your ways and in obeying your commands.*

*Lord I commit myself to all the principles that I learned from this message of your Word.*

*Lord I commit myself to continue to carry my Bible and to go and move to places as you leads 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.*

*Lord I commit myself not to allow ungodly marriages with non believers and with people non-committed to you to take place in your church.*

*Lord gives me strength and good health to go on and serve you. Lord refills me with the Holy Spirit and gives me the spiritual gifts that I need in my service and ministry to you. Lord protects me from the evil one and from the work of Devil in the name of Jesus.*

*Lord gives me discernment and discretion to move away from people and ministries that are unpleasant in your site.*

*Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to the principle that we learn from your Word in this message. Lord protects them and provides for them all their needs. Lord makes their lives good examples to others to know you and to draw near to you. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit so they can move and preach the gospel to others and to teach them your Word.*

*Lord enables us as a church to stand firm against all the form of idol worship and the worldliness, and help us to reach new areas and new people with the Gospel of Jesus. Lord helps us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations. Lord we cry out to you to go before us and fight our battles. Lord we have no one but you. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let*

*you hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf  
The Church Overseer  
Church of God  
United Arab Emirates  
Email: [thebread1@gmail.com](mailto:thebread1@gmail.com)  
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

Note: The Bread of Life is a weekly publication from the Church of God, United Arab Emirates. For further issues and more spiritual enrichment you can visit our web site at: [www.churchofgoduae.com](http://www.churchofgoduae.com).

Share the message with your friends.

Please share with us your view about the message and if you have any question.

If you have a prayer request, please send it to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: [thebread1@gmail.com](mailto:thebread1@gmail.com).

Please send your tithes, your first fruit, and your various offerings to the church to this account

BANK NAME:  
First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)  
ACCOUNT NAME:  
RAMIZ BAHNAM ABBO KHALAF  
ACCOUNT NO.:  
1576003753162014  
IBAN:  
AE380351576003753162014  
SWIFT CODE:  
NBADAEACPU

Or contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: [thebread1@gmail.com](mailto:thebread1@gmail.com).

If you need counseling in area of your life, whether about family, children or finances, please be free to contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: [thebread1@gmail.com](mailto:thebread1@gmail.com).