

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

STUDY NUMBER 14 – 1 KINGS 9:1-9 & 2 CHRONICLES 7:11-22

Solomon has come to the half time in his life. He has just gotten up off his knees to face the second half. The Lord is going to talk to Solomon here in anticipation of the second half of his life. Some of you are wondering how in the world do you know that you are in the second half of your life? We tossed around the terminology “mid-life crisis”. How do you know that you are there? Your death day is closer than your birthday. When you start multiplying your age by 2 and there are not too many of those running around, you are probably in the second half! The problem that you have with “mid-life” is well said by C.S. Lewis. Listen carefully this is one of the most powerful statements I have read on “mid-life”.

(Inspiring Quotations compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.)

The long, dull, monotonous years of middle-aged prosperity or middle-aged adversity are excellent campaigning weather for the Devil.

C.S. Lewis

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It makes this come alive for me when I realize Solomon

is at half time and is still on a roll that things are going great. But, it is not going to finish that way. What we are going to talk about is serious stuff. In fact we are going to gather some information out of the Book of Ecclesiastes as part of this study on the continuing biography of this man. I have chosen both passages. Last time I told you Kings is the political and Chronicles is the priestly. I am using both in this study because there is a statement or two I want to pull out of the Chronicles passage that is relevant to what I have to say.

In this study, the Lord is coming to WARN Solomon. I am saying when you face mid-life you need to have a warning. You need to have somebody tell you what it is like to get old. You need to have somebody tell you what you need to do to finish strong. Get the picture of Solomon in your mind. Here is Solomon; he has forty years as King of the land. The first four years is spent in securing the kingdom. He has all kinds of opposition. Remember back in the story, a claim from Adonijah and a lot of other stuff that David left unattended he had to take care of. He goes to year four before he starts building the temple, which is his number one major project of his life that David left undone. It took him seven years; that is the eleven year mark. Then he has to make a statement by building his palace complex, which took him thirteen more years. That brings us to year twenty-four of a forty-year reign, so we have sixteen years left. It is at this time that the Lord now comes, he gets up off of his knees and the

Lord comes to meet with him. We don't know where he met Him, probably there in Jerusalem. We do know it was in the evening as we will learn from the Chronicles passage. Can I give you a verse? Isaiah 41:13:

Isaiah 41:13 For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

I am ready to take hold of your hand. I WILL be there for you. Don't fear, I WILL help you. You say God has never spoken to me. Have you ever been still enough to give Him time to do it? Adam and Eve, even though there was sin, the Lord still came to meet with them but they went off. We get so consumed and so stressed out with all that is going on in our lives we literally organize God's appointment with us out of existence. We are not even aware that we are missing it. Solomon needs to hear that and he doesn't hear too well.

I think Tony Evans has done the best job of describing what a man goes through when he faces the "mid-life" crisis.

(No More Excuses: Be the Man God Made You to Be by Tony Evans)

ROUTINE-IT IS: THE MODERN MAN'S EPIDEMIC

This is why the twentieth-century American man is such an empty creature. Legions of modern men suffer

from what I call the “same old same” disease. You ask them how it’s going? and they answer, “Oh, you know, same old same old.”

What they mean is, every day they get out of that same old bed and go to that same old bathroom to stare in the mirror at the same old face. They go to that same old closet and thumb through those same old clothes to put on that same old body. They go to that same old kitchen, sit at that same old breakfast table, and eat that same old breakfast cooked by that same old wife (I’m treading dangerous ground here).

Then they go to that same old garage, get in that same old car, and drive down that same old road to that same old office. There they work with those same old people, doing that same old thing, receiving that same old pay. At five o’clock they end that same old work and get back in that same old car to drive that same old road back to that same old house.

At home they hear the same old noise from the same old kids while sitting in that same old easy chair reading that same old newspaper. They finish their day by sitting in front of that same old television watching those same old shows. Then they retire to that same old bed with that same old wife, so they can get up and start it all over again.

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Now put that together with Eccelsaistes 1:2:

**Ecclesiastes 1:2 “Meaningless! Meaningless!”
says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless
Everything is meaningless.”**

Then immediately he launches into the cyclical nature of life. It goes, the sun rises the sun sets. Life does this, is there anymore under the sun. Many times that is where we are.

Solomon rises from his knees and from this tremendous prayer we looked at in our last study he now faces the second half of his life. But as he launches into this new era of this final sixteen years of his life he first of all is going to have a meeting with the Lord.

The Lord comes to meet with him. Look at the very first verse and you can just feel it in the words that are there.

v. 1 When Solomon had finished building the temple of the Lord and the royal palace, and had achieved all he had desired to do.

What are your phrases; he had finished, he had achieved all he had desired to do. This is the dangerous war zone that Satan loves to destroy people that is what C.S. Lewis meant by that.

Solomon is finished, he has achieved, and he has done all he had desired to do.

Bob Buford in his book “Strategies for the Second Half” says,

He says, ‘the first half of our lives is spent becoming successful. The second half of our life is spent establishing significance.’

Look at verse 2.

v. 2 the Lord appeared to him a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon.

Now in 1 Kings 3:5 we know it was the giving of wisdom:

1 Kings 3:5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

Our greatest vulnerability comes at this time in our lives when we have enjoyed a certain measure of success and we have accomplished many of our goals. It is then that the temptations come thick and fast.

Temptations don’t come when you are in adversity. In your marriage when you are in adversity you’re closer than you have ever been before. You’re struggling together, it is when prosperity comes that you begin to

create distance in the marriage relationship. It is when prosperity comes that you throw yourself open to a lot of these things.

Can you think of anybody else in the Bible who had some problems along this line, negotiating the mid-life? Think of his Dad for just a minute. He is the product of the very mid-life crisis of his own Dad. Remember the story. Here is David he is fifty. He is going to live until he is seventy. He has been king for twenty years, and has twenty more years to go and what does he do? Here's a guy on the pinnacle of success, he is king of the land, he establishes the kingdom, and he took it from Saul when it was in a mess. Now it is coherent, now it is coordinated, now it has extended to the furthest domains because he has been the greatest military man that has ever lived. He has had victory, after victory because the Lord has orchestrated those victories. An incredible military genius. On top of that he established Jerusalem as the capital city. He took it away from the Jebusites. He too made a statement and built a fabulous palace there.

Then, he got the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem and wanted to build the temple. The Lord said no, you are not going to build it. So he collected all the stuff. Just like Solomon he has accomplished all that he wants to accomplish. He has finished a lot of his goals in life and he is getting a little bit older so he decides here at mid-life since my death day is closer than my birthday I am going to stay home and let Joab go down and fight

the Ammonites.

Remember what he did? 2 Samuel 11:1-5;

2 Samuel 11:1-5 In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hititite? Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home. The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant.

Remember all the sad things that came out of that. Their little boy died as an act of judgment. God graciously forgave because David knew how to handle failure. When God forgave David they were given another little boy, they called him 'Son of Peace' but the Lord said 'No, his name is Jedidiah, I delight in him.

Isn't God gracious in His ability to forgive and to take away the consequences to some degree of the things

that we suffer because of our own rebellion, selfishness and sin? The Lord lovingly comes along at the time of this great need and ministers to us.

Look at verse 3:

v. 3 The Lord said to him: "I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there."

Isn't that a comfort? To hear from the Lord that your prayer got through. His prayer went out, the fire came down and the glory filled the temple. Now, He says, "I have done what you asked me to do, and I am just going to ask you to do what I am going to ask you to do. This is why He comes for that strategic meeting with him right now. He is at this most vulnerable time in his life. Look at that last phrase. What is the Lord saying: My eyes and my heart will always be there. What did he pray last week? May your eyes and ears always be there? He said may you look and listen. When people come, look on them and listen to what they have to say. The Lord says I am going to go one up on you, I am going to leave my heart in Jerusalem at the temple.

This is what I did for you Solomon, now this is what I want you to do for Me. When you get to verse 4 you have the "if" and when you get to verse 5 you have, "I will". If you'll do these three things I will do this. That is the way you tie verses 4 and 5 together. This is still

true today. When you prepare your heart to be sensitive, to be responsive and to be obedient God is going to pour out His blessing to you. That has never changed and it won't. He will be there to bless when you and I are obedient.

v. 4 “As for you, if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws,

Now as you face the second half Solomon you are filled with prosperity. You have had a great record of victory. If you will do these three things; 1) WALK, 2) DO, and 3) OBSERVE then I am going to do this. We could summarize it with two words just OBEY AND OBSERVE!

Deuteronomy 12:28 Be careful to obey all these regulations I am giving you and your children after you, because you will be doing what is good and right in the eyes of the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2 If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations and earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God.

Joshua 22:5 But be very careful to keep the

commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you; to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul.

Remember in verse 4 what God says about walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness as David your father did. You say how can God say that about David after he entered into an affair with a wife whose husband was in the military. Had her husband killed and ends up married to her. Then, he hides the marriage for a whole year. How can he be considered a man with integrity of heart and uprightness. I will tell you how, God is famous for that kind of thing. Sure he failed, sure he faltered, sure he fumbled and he fell. But what does he say in

Psalm 37:3-4 :

Psalm 37:3-4 Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Somebody said the problem with most people is not in finding the truth but in facing it. Why was David a man after God's own heart? Why was it that David could come back again and again seek God's speaking to him so clearly. I will tell you why, three reasons:

- 1) **Repentance and Brokenness. “Against Thee and Thee only have I sinned and done this great wickedness. You say he is broken and is repentant.**
- 2) **He accepted God’s discipline for his sin. He didn’t become bitter and resentful because the boy died. Remember what he did? He got up, took a shower, went and ate something and began to worship the Lord. Even in the hour of the death of that boy he saw God’s hand of discipline upon him because of the sin between he and Bathsheba. God had decided to do this in disciplining David. He didn’t get resentful or bitter he prayed a lot that the little boy would live but when he died, he was there to accept the discipline.**
- 3) **With forgiveness and freedom he faced the future!**

Paul does the same thing. Philippians 3:13-14:

Philippians 3:13-14 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do; forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

He can be called in this study an example of a young king who is sitting on the throne and he is being

warned. If you will WALK, if you will OBEY, if you will **OBSERVE** I will verse 5.

v. 5 I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'

If you will just walk with me and have an intimate fellowship then this is what I am going to do. As I look at this passage and what the Lord is saying to him, the key to blessing and abundance in the final sixteen years of his life centers around that phrase....verse 4...walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness and do all my commands and observe my decrees and laws. Walk in integrity of heart like your Daddy did. Do all those things, and observe my laws and decrees and it will be o.k.

The line between patience and judgment is very fine and we never know when we have crossed over it.

v. 6 "But if you or your sons turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them,

Three are THREE HOT WORDS in verse 6:

- 1) "TURN AWAY"
- 2) "DO NOT OBSERVE," and
- 3) "GO OFF TO SERVE."

Can I talk to you about those three things for a minute? What does it mean to TURN AWAY? When you TURN AWAY something has captured your heart. You have a new love, so you TURN AWAY. Remember the letter to the church in Laodicea? Revelation 3:14-22:

Revelation 3:14-22 “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing. But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

If you will hear me knock and open the door I am going to come in and have fellowship with you and that is the restoration. But, when you turn away, you have love that has grown cold. The relationship has been strained by a love that is focusing in other directions. The second word is the “fallout of it! When you turn away from the love, what do you also turn away from? The responsibility of that relationship. Do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you. You turn away from the relationship, you destroy the responsibility of the relationship, what is the third thing? You replace it with something else. You just don't go along with a “hole in your heart”! When you put God out of your life you turn away from the responsibilities of that relationship, and replace it with idolatry. Solomon needs to hear this.

(The Seeking Heart: Volume 4: The Library of Spiritual Classics by Fenelon)

Woe to anyone who tries to widen the narrow way!
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(A Man to Match the Mountain; Overcoming the Obstacles of Life by David Roper)

There is a line, by us unseen,
That crosses every path;
That hidden boundary between
God's patience and His wrath.

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None of us knows just exactly when it will come. One of the things you are going to learn out of this study is God does not sit idly by indefinitely in the face of disobedience.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

There comes the time to pay the piper and he tells him here.

Look at verse 7 don't the words just scare you?

v. 7 then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples.

You have the way of blessing but you also have the way of cursing. Just reflect on those words in that verse and what God is telling them He is going to do:

CUT OFF

REJECT

BYWORD

OBJECT OF RIDICULE

Basically, the Lord says there are **TWO THINGS** that are **IMPORTANT** to me in my relationship with you and I am going to take them both away.

- 1) **TAKE THE LAND**
- 2) **TAKE THE TEMPLE**

I am not going to stay there anymore. Did he take the land? Look at the history. Israel 721 B.C. goes off to Assyria, the land becomes theirs. Judah 586 B.C. goes off to Babylon, the land is left abandoned. Did God ever leave the temple? Look at the passage in Ezekiel 10:18:

Ezekiel 10:18 Then the glory of the Lord departed from over the threshold of the temple and stopped above the cherubim.

The Lord said in the face of disobedience and rebellion I am out of here. Remember that tragic story back in 1 Samuel 4:17-22:

1 Samuel 4:17-22 The man who brought the news replied, "Israel fled before the Philistines, and the army has suffered heavy losses. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured. When he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell backward off his chair by the side of the gate. His neck was broken and he died, for he was

an old man and heavy. He had led Israel forty years. His daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant and near the time of delivery. When she heard the news that the ark of God had been captured and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she went into labor and gave birth, but was overcome by her labor pains. As she was dying, the woman attending her said, "Don't despair; you have given birth to a son." But she did not respond or pay any attention. She named the boy Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel"—because of the capture of the ark of God and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband. She said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."

That is the tragic picture. It grieves God's heart for us to grieve the spirit by sin in our lives to quench Him by saying NO. He cannot manifest the glory of God in our individual lives because of our resistance, our rebellion and our insistence on doing things our way rather than doing it God's way. What grieves me so much about our Country is there is no longer any fear of God. Much less any feeling of accountability or responsibility before God.

This is one of the most humorous stories I read about Bear Bryant.

(The Roots of Inner Peace: Fresh Courage and Strength

in the Face of Fear and Worry by Don Hawkins)

I grew up in Alabama, loving Crimson Tide football and relishing the legends about Bear Bryant. This native of Moro Bottom, Arkansas, inspired fear in his players, including professional stars like Joe Namath and Kenny Stabler. Six times Bryant's Crimson Tide wound up ranked number one, and they played in twenty-nine consecutive bowl games.

I remember hearing a story about how Alabama led by six points with only a minute left near the end of a crucial conference game. Instead of calling a safe running play, the quarterback called a pass play. When the pass was intercepted, it looked like the defensive back had a clear path to score which would be the winning touchdown.

Out of nowhere, the Alabama quarterback rushed to tackle the defensive player at the five-yard line. The defense held and the Tide won the game.

After the contest, a member of the opposing team asked one of Alabama's players, "How did your quarterback ever catch our guy?) Our defensive back is a world-class sprinter, and your quarterback isn't known as a speedy runner?"

The Alabama player replied, "Your guy was only running for a touchdown; my guy was running for his life. He was scared to death of Coach Bryant! We all are."

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In some ways, I wish the fear of God would get in us again. We would FEAR and be frightened. There are consequences for living this type of lifestyle not pleasing to Him.

v. 8 And though this temple is now imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, 'Why has the Lord done such a thing to this land and to this temple?

Do you see the word "SCOFF"? It means to whistle in amazement. Look at what happened to that. Why did that happen? You and I know the answer don't we? A relationship grew cold. The responsibility of the relationship was neglected. The relationship was replaced with a new replacement, idolatry and other things that were not priority as far as God was concerned. This is why it all took place.

v. 9 People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the Lord their God, who brought their fathers out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshipping and serving them—that is why the Lord brought all this disaster on them.'

You have TWO WORDS there:

- 1) HAVE FORSAKEN and
- 2) HAVE EMBRACED

They went from one to the other. Again I want to underscore it, the Lord is not going to sit idly and indefinitely and do nothing in the face of disobedience. The time will come when, indeed, He will act.

McNeely says:

One of the great lessons to be learned and not necessarily experienced is that God does deal with sin.

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Deuteronomy 32:28-29

They are a nation without sense, there is no discernment in them. If only they were wise and would understand this and discern what their end will be!

It is both PROPHETIC and PATHETIC as to what is going to happen if he doesn't respond properly. You are now saying why in the world did you put the Chronicles passage down here. I am not going to land on any verse that is repetitious. There is one here that you are going to think is well worthwhile to stop on because the Lord included it in the Chronicles passage and it is not in the Kings passage.

2 Chronicles 7:11-22

v. 11 When Solomon had finished the temple of the Lord and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the Lord and in his own palace,

v. 12 the Lord appeared to him at night and said: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices.

Then he talks about judgment. In our previous study remember he prayed about this. 1 Kings 8:35:

1 Kings 8:35 When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because your people have sinned against you, and when they pray toward this place and confess your name and turn from their sin because you have afflicted them.

v. 13 When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people,

Notice WHEN not IF. When did that happen? When they sinned and were living in disobedience the Lord said I am going to shut up heaven. Solomon said when you do that remember to forgive when the people return. The Lord just comes back to that. The sin of the people creates verse 13. God is HOLY. He hates sin. God is JUST, He condemns sin. God is SOVEREIGN, He

punishes sin. God is GRACIOUS and He forgives sin.

When you come to this beautiful verse, verse 14 you have the Lord telling them what they need to do. Do you know of a more beautiful verse in the bible? If you can just start the second half with a clean slate and approach whatever major decision you are making in your life with this verse you are going to be in the center of the will of God. This verse happens to be famous by those who are predicting a revival for the United States of America. This verse is written to the nation of Israel, not to the church. The nation Israel is concerned about the land so, the land is mentioned. The principles are the same. God will respond to the principles that are here. Just to give you the bottom line of this verse, the Lord said you do four things and am going to do three things.

v. 14 if my people who are called by name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

I just put down Philippians 3:13-14 under it:

Philippians 3:13-14 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do; Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for

which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

I am cut off from the first half. I am ready to play the second half. I am free from it. I have a clean slate and I am ready to go for it. Maybe this message is just for you. God's saying it is time for you to get serious. Half time is here, you are not going to have another half after this one. This is your last one. Give it your best shot! The way you do it is you **HUMBLE YOURSELF, YOU PRAY, YOU SEEK HIS FACE and YOU TURN FROM YOUR WICKED WAYS.** The bridge over troubled waters is in those four words: **HUMBLE, PRAY, SEEK MY FACE and TURN FROM YOUR WICKED WAY.**

Can I talk to you about that? We use the word "HUMBLE" a lot. But I don't think we really understand it. When it says "**HUMBLE THEMSELVES**," He is saying I am looking for a humble, broken spirit. I guess the best illustration of this is in Luke 18:9-13:

Luke 18:9-13 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but

beat his breast and said, 'God have mercy on me, a sinner.'

The Lord said that guy went down to his house justified. He was broken. He was contrite. He was devastated by his lack of spirituality. With this brokenness, this contriteness of heart he comes to God. You are saying why was David a man of great integrity? That is the very reason.

Psalm 34:18: The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

(The Transforming Power of Fasting and Prayer: Personal Accounts of Spiritual Renewal by Bill Bright)

Proud Spirits and Humble Hearts

Nancy Leigh DeMoss has put together a list which is a contrast between people who are unbroken and people who are broken. I am taking 30 of them. When I am speaking of the unbroken person I will speak of him first then I will show you the contrast.

Unbroken people focus on the failure of others.

Broken people are overwhelmed by the sense of their own spiritual need.

Unbroken people are critical and fault finding in spirit.

Broken people are compassionate and forgiving.

The one looks down on others as arrogant.

The other appreciates.

The one is independent.

The other is dependent.

The one must maintain control.

The other one surrenders control.

The one has to prove that they are right.

The other is willing to yield his rights.

The one has to claim his rights.

The other one yields it.

The one has a demanding spirit.

The other has a giving spirit.

The one is desired to be served.

The other is motivated to serve others.

The one is desirous of self-advancement.

The other one desires to promote others.

The one is given to be recognized.

The other has a sense of unworthiness and is thrilled to be used at all.

The one is wounded when others are promoted.
The others rejoice when they are lifted up.

The one sees that the ministry is privileged to have me.

The one says I don't deserve to serve in a ministry.

The one thinks of what they can do for God.
The other knows they have nothing to offer God.

The one feels confident in how much they know.
The other is humbled by how much they have to learn.

The one is self-conscious.
The other is not concerned with self at all.

The one is quick to blame others.
The other is willing to accept responsibility.

The one is unapproachable.
The one is easy to be entreated.

The one is defensive when he is criticized.
The other one will receive criticism with a humble, open heart.

The one is concerned with being respectable.

The other is concerned with being real.

The one has a hard time saying I was wrong.

The other is quick to admit failure.

When confessing sin the one deals in generalities.

The other deals in specifics.

The one is concerned about the consequences of their sin.

The other is grieved over the fact that they have sinned.

The one compares themselves with others and feels deserving of honor.

The other compares themselves to God's holiness and feels a desperate need for mercy.

The one doesn't think they have anything to repent of.

The other has a continual heart of repentance.

The one doesn't think they need revival because everybody else does.

The other is continually sensing their need for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit.

The contrast between the two. The thing that was such a blessing to me is the soil upon which God is going to work to bring revival in America. It is going to start with the BREAKING OF BELIEVERS. As believers are

broken and fall on their faces acknowledging their inadequacy and their willingness to be what God wants them to do, God is going to begin to work.

Carl Wisiger III, is a retired pastor. But he was honored not too long ago at Fuller Seminary. He got to speak with all the distinguished gentlemen, Carl F.H. Henry and all the rest.

(1001 Humorous Illustrations for Public Speaking by Michael Hodgin)

The Power Crowd

Carl Wisiger III: In his opening address, Wisiger Displayed characteristic humility in the company of such academic luminaries: I have been a pastor, by the grace of God. If I could do it all over again, I would be a pastor. I have never, frankly, regarded myself as a scholar. I have tried to be studious, and I want to thank Dr. David Hubbard for including me in the program today. A farmer once put his mule up in a horse race and his friends said to him, "Silly, that mule can't run with those thoroughbreds." The farmer said, "I know it, but you have no idea how good it makes him feel to be with all those horses!"

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HUMBLE YOURSELVES, secondly PRAY, third SEEK MY FACE.

I put Psalm 27:4:

Psalm 27:4 One thing I ask of the Lord, that is what I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. To gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

Why do you seek His face? Because you can tell when you look at His face you can tell if He is happy or not. Zephaniah 3:17

Zephaniah 3:17 The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.”

When He is smiling and singing and you get up off your knees, the light of the Lord is on you then you know you are going into the day in fellowship with Him and you can get pretty excited. You are not only humble, you pray and you seek His face and then you **TURN FROM YOUR WICKED WAYS! The things that you know are not pleasing to Him you address in your life and you deal with them. What is going to happen? He is going to hear from heaven. He is going to forgive their sin, then He is going to heal their land. We have already talked about that, that is the nation of Israel.**

v. 15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

Again that is the eyes and the ears we talked about.

v. 16 I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

v. 17 “As for you, if you walk before me as David your father did, and do all I command, and observe my decrees and laws.

There are your words, WALK, DO AND OBSERVE. But there are some different words here in verse 18.

v. 18 I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father when I said, ‘You shall never fail to have a man to rule over Israel.’

v.19 But if you turn away and forsake the decrees and commands I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them,

The word is plural YOU, there’s a new word.

v. 20 then I will uproot Israel from my land, which I have given them, and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my name. I will make it a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples.

I took the Kings' passage and took the Chronicles' passage and I just took the "hot words" of the consequences of sin. Just listen to the list:

CUT OFF, REJECT, BYWORD, BRING DISASTER,
SHUT UP THE HEAVENS, COMMAND THE
LOCUSTS, SEND A PLAGUE, UPROOT ISRAEL,
REJECT THE TEMPLE, MAKE IT A BYWORD,
BRING DISASTER UPON IT

Maybe some of the hurt, and maybe some of the adversity in your life is because you know better but you haven't responded. It is going to get worse before it gets better.

v. 21 And though this temple is now so imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and say, 'Why has the Lord done such a thing to this land and to this temple?'

I thought of Daniel 5:27:

Daniel 5:17 You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.

God, acting in judgment because it is wrong. It's so quick for us to say it's a right wing conspiracy fiddle. It is the right way as opposed to the wrong way. It is because of the wrong way that we are facing the

consequences of the adversity that we are going through at this very moment. Weighed in the balances and found wanting.

(A Heart Like His: The Shaping of Character in the Choices of Life by Rebecca Manley Pippert)

As tragic as the king appears, and as much as Saul calls forth our sympathy, we must recognize the stubborn strength of his willfulness. There was something in Saul that would not bend. His refusal to accept defeat, acknowledge his sinfulness, and submit to God is almost unbelievable. But if his life teaches us anything, it is that we must not cling to willfulness against God. If we continue in our rebellion, the only fruit awaiting us is despair and, in the end, destruction. No more dangerous path could we take than opposition to God.

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v. 22 People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the Lord, the God of their fathers, who brought them out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshipping and serving them—that is why he brought all this disaster on them.'

Did it bless you in this study of the fact that the Lord is ready to meet you at "half time"? Does it excite you that Jesus Christ is a LIVING, DYNAMIC REALITY. That HE is ALIVE tonight and HE is ready for an audience with you and to counsel you. To be involved

in your life and to have grace to meet your need to care for you. HE is alive tonight and HE is well. We need to pray:

(Prayer—The Great Adventure by David Jeremiah)

The Anglicans of old certainly recognized this. In one of their prayer books this plea is found:

From sin, from the crafts and assaults of the devil...from all blindness of heart; from pride, vain glory and hypocrisy, from envy, hatred, and malice, and all uncharitableness...from fornication, and all other deadly sin; and from all the deceits of the world, and the flesh, and the devil...from sudden [unexpected and unprepared-for] death...from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and Commandment, Good Lord, deliver us.

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Does that pretty well cover all the bases. Some of you are sitting here and think you have just received the following letter from Max Lucado's book:

(In the Grip of Grace: You Can't Fall Beyond His Love by Max Lucado)

Dear Mrs. Smith:

I'm writing in response to this morning's request for

forgiveness. I am sorry to inform you that you have reached your quota of sins. Our records show that, since employing our services, you have erred seven times in the area of greed, and your prayer life is substandard when compared to others of like age and circumstance.

Further review reveals that your understanding of doctrine is in the lower 20 percentile and you have excessive tendencies to gossip. Because of your sins you are a high-risk candidate for heaven. You understand that grace has its limits. Jesus sends His regrets and kindest regards and hopes that you will find some other form of coverage.

Many fear receiving such a letter. Some worry they already have! If an insurance company can't cover my honest mistakes, can I expect God to cover my intentional rebellion?

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What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: How careful we must be when we reach half-time in our lives and we have succeeded in accomplishing many significant tasks.

LESSON #2: The Lord lovingly comes to us in the hour of our greatest need.

LESSON #3: The Lord says, “my eyes and my heart will always be there” (1 Kings 9:3). He is saying, “You can count on My constant availability.”

LESSON #4: Obedience is the key to God’s blessing in our relationship with Him.

LESSON #5: There are serious consequences when we turn away from the Lord and do not accept the responsibility of obedience and seek a replacement for Him.

LESSON #6: The Lord is not going to sit idly by indefinitely in the face of our disobedience.

LESSON #7: The Lord’s discipline involved “cutting off Israel from the land, rejecting the temple, shutting up the heavens, commanding the locusts, and sending a plague.”

LESSON #8: The four-fold prescription for the restoration of the relationship is “humble themselves and pray and see my face and turn from their wicked ways.” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

LESSON #9: “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time (1 Peter 5:6).

LESSON #10: The Lord responds to these acts of

repentance in a three-fold way. He: (1) “will hear from heaven; (2) “will forgive their sin;” and (3) “will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

LESSON #11: Will you make a commitment right now that you will become a candidate for revival by humbling yourself and praying and seeking His face and turning from your wicked ways?

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

STUDY NUMBER FOURTEEN – 1 KINGS 9:1-9 &

2 CHRONICLES 7:11-22

9:1 When Solomon had finished building the temple of the Lord and the royal palace, and had achieved all he had desired to do,
 9:2 the Lord appeared to him a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon.
 9:3 The Lord said to him: "I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.
 9:4 "As for you, if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws,
 9:5 I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'
 9:6 "But if you or your sons turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them,
 9:7 then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples.
 9:8 And though this temple is now imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, 'Why has the Lord done such a thing to this land and to this temple?'
 9:9 People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the Lord their God, who brought their fathers out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—that is why the Lord brought all this disaster on them.'"

2 Chronicles 7:11-22

7:11 When Solomon had finished the temple of the Lord and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the Lord and in his own palace,
 7:12 the Lord appeared to him at night and said: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices.
 7:13 "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people,
 7:14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.
 7:15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.
 7:16 I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.
 7:17 "As for you, if you walk before me as David your father did, and do all I command, and observe my decrees and laws,
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 7:22 People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the Lord, the God of their fathers, who brought them out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—that is why he brought all this disaster on them.'"

CONCLUSION:

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Kings 9:1-9 and 2 Chronicles 7:11-22 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does the Lord do for Solomon in verse 2?

3. What does the Lord Promise to Solomon in verse 3?

4. What are the conditions in verse 4 for the establishment of Solomon's throne?

5. What is the Lord going to do if Solomon and his sons turn away from the Lord, according to verse 7?

6. What four things must the people do to restore their relationship to the Lord, according to 2 Chronicles 7:14?

7. What three things will the Lord do for the people, according to 2 Chronicles 7:14?

8. What does the Lord promise, according to 2 Chronicles 7:14?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?
