Introduction

“Revival is the sovereign act of God, in which he restores his own backsliding people to repentance, faith and obedience.” Stephen Olford

There are four conditions for revival given in II Chronicles 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 heal their land.”

As the leader goes, so goes the nation.

After the deaths of David and Solomon, the kingdom of Israel went downhill pretty quickly.

- Rehoboam’s failure as a king is summed up in II Chronicles 12:14, “He did evil because he did not set his heart on seeking the Lord.”
- Abijah – “His heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his forefather had been.” I Kings 15:3

Then comes Asa, who reigned over Judah 41 years, from 911-870 B.C.

- “He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord as his father David had done.” I Kings 15:11
- But his life was really a tale of two stories.
- His life is an example of what can happen when we seek the Lord and when we do not.

I. We experience his peace. II Chronicles 14:2-7

Asa was a good king.

- In the 15th year of his reign, Judah experience a great revival.
- He led a series of religious reforms.
- He also built up the fortified cities on the perimeter of Judah.
- The key to his success is a word found nine times in these three chapters, “he sought the Lord.”

What does it mean to seek the Lord?

- We turn to him with all our heart.
- We turn from our sin.
- We seek his will and commit ourselves to following it.
• We turn to him in fervent prayer.

The First Great Awakening – 1740-43.

“There was scarcely a single person in the town, either old or young that was left unconcerned about the great things of the eternal world…The town seemed to be full of the presence of God: it never was so full of love, nor so full of joy. It was a time of joy in families on the account of salvations being brought unto them…Our public assemblies were then beautiful; the congregation was alive in God’s service, every one earnestly intent on the public worship…Our public praises were then greatly enlivened; God was then served…in the beauty of holiness.”

Jonathan Edwards

The revival had faded in New England by 1745, but not before it had permanently altered America.

II. We experience his victory. 14:9-15

Fifteen years into his reign, Asa experienced his biggest challenge.

• Zerah the Cushite.
• This was an overwhelming army – a thousand thousands.
• Asa sought the Lord according to II Chronicles 7:14.
• God answered his prayer by routing the Cushites.

God still does that today.

III. We experience his presence. 15:1-19 and 16:1-14

“The Lord is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.” II Chronicles 15:2

Asa experienced both sides in his life.

“The people sought the Lord and he was found by them.” Verse 4

“They entered into a covenant to seek the Lord, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and soul.” Verse 12

“Asa’s heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life.” Verse 17

Then comes chapter 16. After 35 years of walking with God and experiencing his blessings, Asa forgot God.

• Instead of relying on the God, Asa made an agreement with the king of Aram.
• Instead of listening to God, Asa got mad and put Hanani in prison.
• Instead of seeking the Lord, he sought help only from the physicians.
Conclusion

The eyes of the Lord still look for those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

Where is your heart today?

It is time to seek the Lord with all our heart.