

2 Chronicles 14 — “How to Start an Activity in a Good & God-Honoring Way: Lessons from King Asa”**Introduction**

In 2 Chronicles 14-16 – a UNIT on Asa (a good, Davidic king: followed God & His Law)

1. Asa's **CONFIDENCE** in God (ch. 14) // recognition of God
2. Asa's **CONSECRATION** to God (ch. 15) // reformation toward God
3. Asa's **CAPITULATION** from God (ch. 16) // rebellion against God

THESIS — So how do you start something good and make it God-honoring??

From this account, we'll glean **4 guides to help** in starting something new and making it God-honoring.

I.BEGIN BY PURSUING GOD! (1-2)

Perhaps the defining mark of a true Christian: a *pursuer of God*: one who runs after God!

II.BEGIN BY SLAYING SIN! (3-8)

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A.PUT OFF SIN (vv.3ff)

B.PURSUE GOD (vv.4ff)

III.BEGIN BY EXPECTING OPPOSITION! (9)

Consider Acts 14:22 — “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

IV.BEGIN BY TRUSTING GOD! (10-15)

- Trusting GOD is **always** the wisest path to choose. [Ps 62.8 - trust in Him at all times, O peoples!!]
- Even against ALL possible and conceivable odds, when everyone turns against you & calls it a foolish thing to do: ***trust God & continue TRUSTING in God.***

Asa’s prayer we see the following:

1. Invoke the Covenant-Name of Jehovah (“LORD...”)
2. Remember the Exclusivity of Jehovah (“there is no one besides you”)
3. Plead for the Help of Jehovah (“no one to help between powerful ... so HELP us!”)
4. Reaffirm your Belonging to Jehovah (“our God”)
5. Triumph in Trust in Jehovah (“we trust in you”)
6. Reflect the Glory of Jehovah (“in your name we have come...”)
7. Verbalize the Sovereignty of Jehovah (“let no man prevail against you”)

So we see that he called upon God & His covenantal-love (LORD), exclusivity (no one besides you), ability (no one to help), nearness/imminency (so help us), personal (help us O LORD OUR GOD), trustworthy (we trust in you) & a personal affirmation (you are OUR GOD)!

If it was this way historically with Asa & His covenant people, HOW MUCH MORE with us as His redeemed, blood-bought children!

GOD gives us the victory: in Christ we conquer; He is our Victor; our Atonement!

God gives us a **GRACIOUS** victory (all of grace/undeserved)

God gives us an **ETERNAL** victory (once for all)

God gives us a **REWARDING** victory (plundered them)

God gives us the **CHOICEST** victory (heavenly inheritance; every spiritual blessing)

Christ gives us the choicest of gifts: eternal inheritance in glory (forever!)

Conclusion

Deuteronomy 4:29 reminds us as Moses told Israel: “you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul.”

The Reformation Hymn

We will trust **God’s Word alone**,
 Where his perfect will is known;
 Our traditions shift like sand
 While his Truth forever stands.
 We will live by **faith alone**,
 Clothed in merit not our own;
 All we claim is Jesus Christ
 And his finished sacrifice.

We are saved by **grace alone**—
 Undeserved, yet freely shown;
 No accomplishment on earth
 Can achieve the second birth.
 We will stand on **Christ alone**,
 The unyielding Cornerstone;
 Nations rage and devils roar,
 Still he reigns forevermore!

*Glory be, **glory be to God alone**,
 Through the church he redeemed and made his own.
 He has freed us, he will keep us till we’re safely home
 Glory be, glory be to God alone!*

Jesus I My Cross Have Taken

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
 All to leave and follow Thee.
 Destitute, despised, forsaken,
 Thou from hence my all shall be.
 Perish every fond ambition,
 All I’ve sought or hoped or known.
 Yet how rich is my condition!
 God and heaven are still my own.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure,
 Come disaster, scorn and pain
 In Thy service, pain is pleasure,
 With Thy favor, loss is gain
 I have called Thee Abba Father,
 I have stayed my heart on Thee
 Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;
 All must work for good to me.

Let the world despise and leave me,
 They have left my Savior, too.
 Human hearts and looks deceive me;
 Thou art not, like them, untrue.
 O while Thou dost smile upon me,
 God of wisdom, love, and might,
 Foes may hate and friends disown me,
 Show Thy face and all is bright.

Soul, then know thy full salvation
 Rise o’er sin and fear and care
 Joy to find in every station,
 Something still to do or bear.
 Think what Spirit dwells within thee,
 Think what Father’s smiles are thine,
 Think that Jesus died to win thee,
 Child of heaven, canst thou repine.

Man may trouble and distress me,
 Twill but drive me to Thy breast.
 Life with trials hard may press me;
 Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.
 Oh, ‘tis not in grief to harm me
 While Thy love is left to me;
 Oh, ‘twere not in joy to charm me,
 Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Haste thee on from grace to glory,
 Armed by faith, and winged by prayer.
 Heavens eternal days before thee,
 Gods own hand shall guide us there.
 Soon shall close thy earthly mission,
 Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,
 Hope shall change to glad fruition,
 Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.