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## Daily Rice 2024 June 6

YouTube Prayer Link

We need to seek God with a pure heart

2 Chronicles, chapter 15

Chapter 15 of 2 Chronicles focuses on Asa, king of Judah in the south, who continued to worship God.

The prophet Azaria came to Asa and reminded him of God's existence and power, encouraging him to continue to walk in God's will. Asa listened to Azariah's words and used the gold, silver, and other treasures he had acquired for the repair of the Lord's house and the making of his utensils, and called all the people of Judah to seek the Lord with all their hearts according to the law of God, so that the Lord might help them to find peace. The people obeyed him and did God's will, and Asa's nation was blessed by God.

Nor did Asa let his guard down, continuing to strengthen Judah's military defenses, abolishing some pagan idols, and forcing some of his own people to submit to God's will. Although these measures sometimes caused some backlash and opposition, Asa still stood by his faith and decision to allow the country to receive more protection and help from God.

Do we still have some high places in our lives? Is there a part of our life that we don't want to be touched by God, who we don't want to be adjusted? Or even some sin that is not pleasing to God, the weakness of self-absorption? If we don't deal with it, this high place will sink deep into the

hearts of the people, become a snare for us, and eventually cause us to stumble and turn away from God's will.

To "seek" God is to seek the LORD the God of their fathers with all your heart and soul, and Asa's search for God is definitely not just a dimensional seeking, but the destruction of idols, the removal of abominations, and the observance of God's statutes and judgments. That is to say, Asa's quest for God was to walk in a path that pleased God, to reveal his heart to God, so that he could be seen by God. When we think of seeking God, most of the things that come to mind are our Bible reading, praying, devotional, spending time with God, listening, waiting, and looking up. Of course, this is all good, but let's not forget that there is another meaning, which is that we act according to God's will. Let God's life come into our hearts. Seeking God is not about adding some additional burden of spiritual activity to our already busy life, but about reducing the things that have nothing to do with God in our busy life and focusing solely on God. Don't say you don't have time to serve God, but remind yourself to save the time you spend on feasting, and God's presence is for you to seek and obey God. Matthew 7:7-8 "When you ask, it will be given to you; Seek, seek; Knock on the door and it will be opened for you. For everyone who asketh receives; Seek, seek; and he that knocketh shall open the door to him. Today, God has heard our prayers and blessed our churches, but we are not to be satisfied with the status quo, but to pursue God more deeply and broadly, and to obey Him.

In our life of faith, it is a beautiful pursuit to seek God with a pure heart. Purity of heart is not only a state of mind, but also a bridge between us and God. When we seek God with a pure heart, our hearts will be filled with His grace, and our lives will be enriched and meaningful by His presence.

Purity of heart means purity of our mind, free from distractions and desires. The Bible says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." (Matthew 5:8) Purity of heart is not only the purity of the heart, but also the single-minded pursuit of God, free from the distractions of the world. Seeking God with a pure heart is a wholehearted, unreserved trust and reliance.

Those who are pure in heart can more easily draw near to God and feel His presence. Our prayers and worship will become more authentic and profound. When we seek God with a pure heart, our hearts will be filled with peace and joy, and we will no longer be troubled by the troubles and anxieties of the world. Humility is an important manifestation of a pure heart. We need to recognize our own inadequacies and rely on God's strength, not our own ingenuity.

We prayed together

Lord, may I seek you with a clear heart and single-mindedness. May I be pleased with you, seen by you, and have peace. As you bless us, may we be able to strengthen our faith in you and love you more. Thank you for your leadership, protection, and blessings in the past that have helped us not to be proud or stagnant, but to pursue you more deeply, to obey you, to understand your heart better, and to align more with you.

Lord, I believe you will give us a greater blessing and a greater mission! Thank you, Lord! Bless your church, bless your children, and let us set our minds to walk in the path of God's own heart, and remove the high places of our lives. May we not be arrogant, not stumble, and let us not forget to always count your grace, and cherish and retain it.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

#### Chapter 15 of the Chronicles of the Chronicles

15:1 The Spirit of God touched Azariah, the son of Russia.

15:2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Asa, and Judah, and all Benjamin, hear me, and say, If ye obey Jehovah, Jehohua shall be with you. If you seek him, you will find him. If you forsake him, he will forsake you.

15:3 For a long time the Israelites did not believe in the true God, had no priests of instruction, and had no law.

15:4 But in their time of distress they turned to the God of Jehova and Israel and sought him, and he was found by them.

15:5 At that time, the people who came and went were not at peace, and the inhabitants of the nations were in great turmoil.

15:6 This kingdom against that kingdom, and this city against that, and one over another, for God troubles them with all kinds of calamities.

15:7 Now be strong, and not weak, for what you do will be rewarded.

15:8 When Asa heard these words and the prophecy of the prophet Azariah the son of Od, he took courage and took away all the abominations in all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and in all the cities which he had taken in the hill land of Phraim. And he built a new altar of Yahohua in front of the gallery of the temple of Yahohua.

15:9 And he gathered together all the men of Judah, and Benjamin, and the sojourners of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and Simeon. Many Israelites came down to Asa because they saw the God of Jehovathah with him.

15:10 And it came to pass in the third month of the fifteenth year of Asa, that they were all gathered together in Jerusalem.

15:11 On that day they offered seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep to Jehohua out of the spoils they had taken.

15:12 And they made a covenant to seek the God of their fathers with all their heart and soul.

15:13           Whoever does not seek the gods of Yahweh, great or small, male or female, shall be put to death.

15:14           And they shouted for joy, and blew trumpets and trumpets, and swore an oath to the Lord Hohwa.

15:15           And all the people of Judah rejoiced in the vows they had taken. For they swore with all their hearts, and sought the Lord with all their hearts, and the Lord was found by them, and gave them peace on all sides.

15:16           King Asa degraded his grandmother, Queen Macharth, because she had created an abominable image of Asherah. And Asa cut down her image, and smashed it to pieces, and burned it by the brook Kidron.

15:17           But the high places had not yet been abolished from Israel, and yet Asa's heart was sincere.

15:18           And Asa sanctified his father, and sanctified his own gold, silver, and vessels, and brought them into the house of God.

15:19           From this time until the thirty-fifth year of Asa, there was no war.

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Overall, Asa was a pious king who placed great emphasis on faith and worship of God, leading the state of Judah to retain its territory and independence, and promoting the development and prosperity of the country.

Important Verses in 2 Chronicles 15:

1.     The Spirit of God moved Asa: "The Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Od. (2 paragraphs)

2. Azariah called the people to seek God: "Azariah cried out with a loud voice, and tore her clothes, and fell before the Lord and in the temple before him, saying, 'O Lord, you alone can help the weak. Pray thee, the LORD our God, do not allow any man to prevail against thee. (paragraphs 3-4)

3. God answered Azariah's prayer: "When God heard Azariah's cry, he delivered into Azariah's hand the chiefs of the fathers and the king's goods, along with their wives and children." Azariah and his men smote them mightily, because they all turned to the LORD. (paragraphs 7-8)

4. Azariah purged all idols: "And Azariah took away all the high hills and incense altars of all the cities of Judah, and the kingdom was peaceful before him. (paragraph 8)

5. Azariah set up a place to inquire of God: "And he built the court before the temple of the Lord, and the altar of burnt offering that he offered before the temple. (paragraph 8).