

19 SHOW HIMSELF STRONG

2 Chronicles 15:7 But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded!

2 Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him...

The prophetic word came to King Asa through the mouth of Azariah at a time of great turmoil. *“For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law”* (2 Chronicles 15:3). From chapter 14, we read that King Asa had some measure of success in his efforts at spiritual reformation. But faith and fortitude are prone to slacken midway when things stretch to an extended season. It is at such times that God’s word comes to strengthen and challenge us in the work He has called us to. A sense of futility can be paralyzing. By contrast, an expectation of reward can be motivating. When we are tempted to feel it is a lost cause and wonder what is the point of going on, let us be reminded that our reward is with our God. Love’s labour is never lost.

God requires that our hands not be weak, because He desires to show Himself strong. He is a God of might and He delights to manifest this through His people. The only qualifying condition is that of the heart. He scans and searches the earth for those whose hearts are perfect or loyal towards Him, in order to show His power through them. Without absolute loyalty, delegated power tends to corrupt easily.

We are often resigned to a lack of God’s power without questioning the lack of loyalty in our own hearts as a probable cause. Let us remember that He is the mighty God. If we have not seen mighty things, it is not because He is unwilling to do, but rather our unwilling hearts have prevented Him from doing so. He is constantly looking out for those with willing and loyal hearts through whom He can demonstrate His power and glory. The question we have to ask ourselves when we are not seeing the strong arm of God displayed, is whether we can be trusted with His power and glory? Or are we inclined to siphon off some of it for ourselves?

When He shows Himself strong on our behalf, others cannot fail to notice. The result will be that many will be drawn to the God who is with us. This was King Asa’s experience, *“for they came over to him in great numbers from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him”* (2 Chronicles 15:9). More than anything else, this is what draws men and women to God irresistibly when they see the mighty God at work through yielded lives.