



There are many kinds of ambition, but do you have a **holy ambition**?

- Do you want something more in your Christian life?
- Do you want your life to make a difference for God?
- Do you want to experience in a deep and unmistakable way, exactly what Jesus meant when He announced, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly?” John 10:10 (NASB)
- Are you hungry for the *abundant* part?

Well done, good and faithful servant!
Matthew 25:21 (NIV)

What does it mean to live with holy ambition?

*The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth
in order to strengthen those
whose hearts are fully committed to him.*
2 Chronicles 16:9a (NLT)

The story of King Asa – 2 Chronicles 14-16

- Asa was the king of Judah, the southern kingdom.
- He was a godly man, and God was pleased with him.
- First 10 years of his reign -- peace and prosperity
- In year 10 an army from Ethiopia, twice the size of Asa’s army, threatened. Asa sought the Lord.

*O Lord, no one but you can help the powerless against the mighty!
Help us, O Lord our God, for we trust in you alone.
It is in your name that we have come against this vast horde.
O Lord, you are our God; do not let mere men prevail against you!*
2 Chronicles 14:11 (NLT)

- God answered Asa’s prayer

*So the Lord defeated the Ethiopians in the presence of Asa
and the army of Judah, and the enemy fled.*
2 Chronicles 14:12 (NLT)

- A prophet came to see King Asa

Asa, you have honored God greatly. Now God has a proposal for you. If you will trust and obey God and your people trust and obey God, then God will be with you and will do things beyond your wildest dreams. But, if you forsake God, God will forsake you.
Paraphrase of 2 Chronicles 15:1-6

- Asa and the people of Judah accepted the proposal and a revival of worship broke out in Judah.

All in Judah were happy about this covenant, for they had entered into with all their heart. They earnestly sought after God and they found him. And the Lord gave them rest from their enemies on every side.
2 Chronicles 15:15 (NLT)

- For the next 20 years, King Asa and Judah experienced great blessing, prosperity and peace and lived with holy ambition.

- Holy ambition is not a permanent condition.
- Holy ambition can't live off the faith of the past.
- It involves active, current, right now living in trust and obedience.

- In the 35th year of Asa's reign a coalition of enemies surrounded Judah. Instead of seeking God, Asa relied on the success of the past to handle the situation himself. He emptied the kingdom's treasury and paid a powerful ally to help him defeat the enemies. It worked, but it was a spiritual train wreck!
- Another prophet shows up at Asa's door.

You depended on the king of Syria instead of depending on the Lord your God. And so, you will never defeat the Syrian army.
2 Chronicles 16:7 (CEV)

The prophet continued:

Remember how powerful the Ethiopians and Libyan army was, with all their chariots and cavalry troops!
You trusted the Lord to help you then, and you defeated them,
2 Chronicles 16:8 (CEV)

The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.
2 Chronicles 16:9a (NLT)

What a fool you have been! From now on you will be at war.
2 Chronicles 16:9b (NLT)

Past success (faith and dependency on God) is no guarantee of future faithfulness.

There are too many churches and pastors who, like King Asa, have lost their holy ambition. They are ignorantly riding on the past successes and they are shriveling up like a balloon with a slow leak.

God calls us to holy ambition. This means to live with a large, God-given purpose in life. Are we going to answer God's call for this church to make a significant impact in our community, or will we rest on past success?

Sources: *Holy Ambition* by Chip Ingram