



THE CITADEL GLOBAL COMMUNITY CHURCH

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES NUGGETS



SUNDAY, 25 JANUARY 2026

THE HEART OF THE MATTER IS THE MATTER OF THE HEART - 2

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2026: OUR YEAR OF FRUITFUL LABOUR | 2 Chronicles 15: 7

- The heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, yet God in His mercy gives us a new heart and places His Spirit within us. Even with a new heart, a believer can drift if the heart is not guarded diligently (**Jeremiah 17:9, Proverbs 4:23, Ezekiel 36:26-27**).
- The direction, quality, and outcome of a believer's life are determined by the state of the heart (**Proverbs 4:23**).
- King Asa started well because he had a personal relationship with God before public service; showing intimacy before activity (**2 Chronicles 14:2**).
- Intimacy with God must always precede service to God. David instructed Solomon to know God intimately before serving Him, because service without intimacy leads to confusion and frustration (**1 Chronicles 28:9-10**).
- If you do not know the God you are serving, you will end up serving men and men will frustrate you. True service flows from accountability to God, not from seeking human approval (**Hebrews 11:6**).
- Man was created to worship; the only question is what or who occupies the centre of the worship. Asa removed idols and centralised God so that the people would not fill the vacuum with substitutes (**2 Chronicles 14:3-5, Matthew 12:43-45**).
- When God is centralised in our affairs, darkness gives way to light, and peace produces progress. Asa's obedience brought rest, clarity of thought, creativity, and national development (**2 Chronicles 14:5-7, Isaiah 26:3**).
- Rest in God creates an atmosphere where inspired ideas and strategic building can take place. Peace is not laziness; it is a season for intentional growth and preparation (**2 Chronicles 14:6-8**).
- Times of peace are not for complacency but for strengthening spiritual and structural defences. Asa built

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strong cities and organised an army during peace, preparing for inevitable tests (2 Chronicles 14:7-8).

- Every believer will be tested; tests reveal what is truly in the heart. God allowed Asa's first major test to come to examine his dependence and loyalty (2 Chronicles 14:9-11, Deuteronomy 8:2-3).
- Tests are not just to prove obedience but to upgrade our capacity to live by God's word. God used trials to teach Israel that "man shall not live by bread alone" (Deuteronomy 8:3, Matthew 4:4).
- Passing divine tests leads to divine reward and increase. Asa's victory produced "much spoil" which later became "exceedingly much spoil" (2 Chronicles 14:13-14).
- God always provides a way of escape, not by removing pressure, but by supplying sufficient grace. No test comes without God faithful provision for victory (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- A heart rightly aligned with God attracts prophetic encouragement

and divine assurance. God sent a prophetic word to Asa to strengthen him: "Be strong... Payday is coming." (2 Chronicles 15:7-9, MSG).



Intimacy with God must always precede service to God. David instructed Solomon to know God intimately before serving Him, because service without intimacy leads to confusion and frustration (1 Chronicles 28 : 9-10).



- A good beginning does not guarantee a good ending if the heart is not guarded. Pride caused Asa to rely on alliances instead of God during his second test (2 Chronicles 16:1-9).
- Pride is acting independently of God and rejecting correction. Asa imprisoned the prophet instead of repenting, revealing a heart that had drifted (2 Chronicles 16:10, Deuteronomy 8:11-14).

- You can do what is right outwardly and still have a heart that is not loyal to God. King Amaziah served God, but not with a perfect heart (**2 Chronicles 25:1-2**).
 - God is more concerned about motives than actions. He searches the heart and weighs intentions, not appearances (**Jeremiah 17:10, Proverbs 21:2**).
 - When confronted with error, humility preserves destiny, but defensiveness reveals pride. David repented and was restored; Asa resisted correction and never recovered (Psalm 51:1-4, 2 Chronicles 16).
 - Guarding the heart requires storing the word of God in your heart, choosing relationships wisely, and yielding continually to God.
2. Lord, help me guard my heart with all diligence, being intentional about what I allow in and what I give access to my inner life. Let the issues that flow from me align fully with Your will and bring glory to Your name.
 3. Father, keep my heart humble, teachable, and responsive to correction at all times. Deliver me from pride, self-reliance, and every tendency to act independently of You.
 4. Lord, let intimacy with You always come before service, activity, or visibility. Keep my devotion sincere, my love for You genuine, and my service flowing from a loyal and wholehearted heart
 5. Father, grant me grace to pass every test You permit this year, trusting fully in Your faithfulness. Help me rely on You alone and not on the arm of flesh, knowing that You always provide a way of escape.
 6. Lord, sanctify Yourself in my heart; let nothing rival Your place of lordship in my life (**1 Peter 3:15**).



PRAYER POINTS

1. Father, search my heart and expose every hidden motive, anxious care, or misalignment within me. Lead me away from every path of pain and establish me in Your everlasting way (**Psalm 139:23-24**).