



Restoration Through Prayers

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Bulletin VCM-079

04 August 2013

**"Call un-
to me,**



and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3).

God answered Solomon's prayer during the dedication of the temple with a conditional promise - "If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people...." (2 Chronicles 7:13,14). Note from verse 13 that some adverse circumstances may be allowed by God for a purpose - to cause us to pray so that we will be prepared to enjoy the blessings (Deuteronomy 8:2,3). A speaker noted that "Life is a fight for territory. The moment you stop fighting for what you want, what you do not want will automatically take over". Jesus taught that **"... from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force"** (Matthew 11:12).

Verse 14 of our text assures us that God will surely answer when we (1) humble ourselves, (2) pray, (3) Seek God's face and (4) repent. The story of David bringing The Ark of Covenant to Jerusalem contain salient truths about this. **"And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we enquired not at it in the days of Saul"** (1 Chronicles 13:3). David's intention was grand and loved by the people - an enviable position that any politician would love to be in. However, David's initial attempt to bring the ark ended in failure. "The downfall of a man is not the end of his life". Instead of giving up, David rather went to study the Scriptures and repented of their mistakes and successfully brought the ark to Jerusalem - Mission Accomplished! This teaches us many things including:

- 1) Good intentions and effort are not sufficient to guarantee success, if we do not satisfy God's unchanging requirements.
- 2) Ignorance is no excuse to continue in error. David's ignorance about the correct method of conveying the ark did not spare him from divine chastisement - the death of Uzza (1

Chronicles 13:10), and changed plans.

- 3) Being busy is not an acceptable excuse not to seek God, if divine blessing is to follow. David was a busy king, administrator, songwriter, warrior, etc., but he had to create time to seek God first, in order to succeed in achieving his desire of bringing the ark to Jerusalem (Matthew 6:33; Ecclesiastes 12:13).
- 4) Effective Seeking of God must also be accompanied by knowledge and obedience. David's diligent study of God's word produced new instructions that enabled successful completion of the project (1 Chronicles 15:2,11-13).
- 5) Neither fears nor past failures should hinder seeking God. After divine judgement for his mistake, fear gripped David - **"But David could not go before it to enquire of God: for he was afraid** because of the sword of the angel of the LORD" (1 Chronicles 21:30). Overcome your fears and seek God continually! **"Acquaint now thyself with Him and be at peace thereby good shall come unto thee"** (Job 22:21). God's recipe in 2 Chronicles 7:14, provides a solution to the problem of fear and guilt.

God demands all to seek Him **"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near"** (Isaiah 55:6). He told Asa "... The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you" (2 Chronicles 15:2). **As long as Uzziah sought the Lord, God made him to prosper"** (2 Chronicles 26:5). Seek God constantly (1 Thessalonians 5:17).