

## **“Doing Right without Being Right”**

### 2 Chronicles 25:1-2

Introduction: In our passage we read about Amaziah, who was the ninth king of the southern kingdom (Judah). The Bible is plain to point out something about his reign in verse two. He was doing right without being right. In other words, Amaziah was doing the right actions with the wrong attitude. He was doing what was pleasing in the Lord’s sight, but not wholeheartedly. The general aim of the man was right, but execution was spoiled by imperfection. How many times does this occur in our lives? We serve the Lord through motions instead of a burning zeal with a perfect heart. Notice what it means to have a perfect heart.

#### 1. The Exhortation to have a Perfect Heart

- a. Deuteronomy 18:13- *“Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God.”*
- b. The Lord to Abram Genesis 17:1- *“And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.”*
- c. By Solomon 1 Kings 8:61- *“Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.”*
- d. By David 1 Chronicles 28:9- *“And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.”*
- e. David’s Determination Psalms 101:2- *“I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.”*
- f. David’s Prayer 1 Chronicles 29:19- *“And give unto Solomon my son a perfect heart, to keep thy commandments, thy testimonies, and thy statutes, and to do all these things, and to build the palace, for the which I have made provision.”*
- g. Hanani the Seer (When Asa relied on the King of Syria instead of the Lord) 2 Chronicles 16:9- *“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.”*
- h. Jehoshaphat (Speaking to Judah) 2 Chronicles 19:9- *“And he charged them, saying, Thus shall ye do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully, and with a perfect heart.”*
- i. By Jesus Matthew 5:48- *“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”*
- j. By Paul 2 Corinthians 13:9- *“For we are glad, when we are weak, and ye are strong: and this also we wish, even your perfection.”*
- k. By Paul 2 Corinthians 13:11- *“Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.”*

#### 2. The Explanation of Having a Perfect Heart

##### a. What it is Not

(1) Having a perfect heart is not sinless perfection.

(2) 1 John 1:8- *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”*

- (3) 1 John 1:10- *“If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”*
  - (4) Having a perfect heart is not half-hearted Christianity
  - (5) Psalm 9:1- *“I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works.”*
  - (6) Psalm 111:1- *“Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.”*
  - (7) Psalm 119:2- *“Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.”*
  - (8) Psalm 119:34- *“Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.”*
  - (9) Jeremiah 3:10- *“And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the LORD.”*
- b. What it Is
- (1) Webster – “perfect” – “Finished; complete; consummate; not defective; having all that is requisite to its nature and kind; as a perfect statue; a perfect likeness; a perfect work; a perfect system. Complete in moral excellencies.”
  - (2) First: Perfection is a lack of contaminations in our heart.
  - (3) Second: Perfection deals with spiritual development. Our Christian life starts as babes, but we are not to stay that way.
3. The Examples of having a Perfect Heart
- a. Those with a Perfect Heart
- (1) Noah Genesis 6:9- *“These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.”*
  - (2) David 1 Kings 11:4- *“...and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.”*
  - (3) Asa 1 Kings 15:14- *“But the high places were not removed: nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days.”*
  - (4) Hezekiah 2 Kings 20:3- *“I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.”*
  - (5) The Men of War that Could Keep Rank 1 Chronicles 12:38- *“All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel: and all the rest also of Israel were of one heart to make David king.”*
  - (6) The People of Israel 1 Chronicles 29:9- *“Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.”*
  - (7) Job Job 1:1- *“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.”*
    - (a) Job 1:8- *“And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?”*
    - (b) Job 2:3- *“And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.”*

- b. Those without a Perfect Heart
  - (1) Solomon 1 Kings 11:4- *“For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.”*
  - (2) Abijam 1 Kings 15:3- *“And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father.”*
  - (3) Amaziah 2 Chronicles 25:2- *“And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart.”*
- 4. The Establishment of a Perfect Heart
  - a. It comes by Supplication
    - (1) John 17:23- *“I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”*
    - (2) Colossians 4:12- *“Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”*
  - b. It comes by Sermons
    - (1) Ephesians 4:11-12- *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”*
    - (2) Colossians 1:28- *“Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:”*
  - c. It comes by the Scriptures 2 Timothy 3:16-17- *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*
  - d. It comes through Suffering 1 Peter 5:10- *“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.”*
  - e. It comes through controlling our Speech James 3:2- *“For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.”*
  - f. It comes by the Sovereign Hebrews 13:20-21- *“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”*

**Body:** Not having a perfect heart is a dangerous thing. Serving God out of routine and duty instead of having our heart in it is hazardous. It led Amaziah to do some foolish things. Notice what will happen when we do right without being right.

- I. It Leads to Compliance
  - A. To the Word of God 2 Chronicles 25:3-4

1. “He was a good king for awhile, and executed the men who had assassinated his father, Joash. But he did not kill their children, obeying the Mosaic law which said the sons were not to be killed for the sins of their fathers.” (Willmington)
  2. Deuteronomy 24:16- *“The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin.”*
- B. To the Worker for God 2 Chronicles 25:7-10
1. “Amaziah then organized the army of Judah and found he had an army of 300,000. He then hired 100,000 experienced mercenary soldiers from Israel to help him fight against Edom.” (Willmington)
  2. “He was warned against this by a prophet. The king reluctantly sent these mercenaries home, bitterly resenting the lost money he had paid them.” (Willmington)
  3. Notice what the man of God tells Amaziah.
  4. 2 Chronicles 25:9- *“...And the man of God answered, The LORD is able to give thee much more than this.”*
  5. “Here is a precious spiritual gem that should be carefully considered whenever God requires us to give up our time, talent, treasure, or anything close and precious to us.” (Willmington)
- II. It Leads to Corruption 2 Chronicles 25:14-16
- A. “Amaziah went into battle with only his own troops and soundly defeated Edom, killing 20,000 enemy soldiers. But the foolish king brought back with him some Edomite idols and began worshiping them.” (Willmington)
  - B. “God warned the king, through a prophet, of his divine anger. Amaziah refused to listen and curtly dismissed him, but not before the king’s doom was predicted.” (Willmington)
  - C. Notice how Amaziah is no longer listening to the man of God.
- III. It Leads to Conceit 2 Chronicles 25:17
- A. “The overconfident Amaziah then declared war on northern king Jehoash, for the disgraceful action of the returning Israelite mercenaries.” (Willmington)
  - B. 2 Chronicles 25:13
  - C. “Northern king Jehoash responded to Amaziah’s challenge by relating the second Old Testament fable.” 2 Chronicles 25:18
  - D. “Jehoash was at this point warning Amaziah not to let his Edomite victory blind him to reality but to withdraw his arrogant declaration of war. But the plea fell on deaf ears.” 2 Chronicles 25:19-20
  - E. “Amaziah was soundly defeated by Jehoash at Beth-shemesh and was led as a common prisoner back to his own capital in Jerusalem. Upon arriving, Jehoash dismantled 200 yards of the city walls to effect an impressive victory celebration. He then carried off all the treasures of the Temple and palace. Finally the northern king left, taking with him many hostages.” (Willmington)
  - F. 2 Chronicles 25:21-26

Conclusion: Many times when we are doing right without being right and going through the motions of living for God without fervency, we fall into sin. Such is the case of Solomon and Amaziah. They had the right actions without the right attitude. This held well for a little while, but eventually they rebelled against God's Word. They allowed paganism and pride to creep into their lives and destroy their testimony for God. Is it a possibility that we are doing right without being right?