

2 Chronicles 17:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah.

Analysis

King Jehoshaphat's spiritual disposition: 'And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah.' The phrase 'heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD' (gabah libo b'darkhei YHWH) means emboldened or encouraged - his heart rose with courage for God's ways. This contrasts with pride (heart lifted up against God). True spiritual courage produces reforming action - removing idolatrous high places and Asherah groves. This demonstrates that genuine spiritual vitality manifests in removing sin and false worship, not merely adding religious activities. Christ calls disciples to both positive pursuit of righteousness and negative removal of sin.

Historical Context

Jehoshaphat's reforms (c. 872 BCE) followed his father Asa's partial reforms, completing what Asa left undone. His courage in God's ways led to teaching the Law throughout Judah (17:7-9), showing that reformation requires both removing falsehood and establishing truth.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What 'high places' - competing allegiances or idols - does God call you to courageously remove from your life?
2. How does being 'lifted up' (encouraged) in God's ways produce boldness to address sin rather than accommodate it?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּבֹא הָ	לֵבָן	בְּדָרְכֵי	יְהוָה	וְעַל
was lifted up	And his heart	in the ways	of the LORD	H5750
H1361	H3820	H1870	H3068	
וְעַד יָרָ	אֵת	בְּבָמָה וְתָ	וְאֵת	מִיהוּדָה:
moreover he took away	H853	the high places	H853	and groves
H5493		H1116		H3063

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:1 (References Lord): Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.

Hosea 14:9 (References Lord): Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.

2 Chronicles 15:17 (Parallel theme): But the high places were not taken away out of Israel: nevertheless the heart of Asa was perfect all his days.

2 Chronicles 20:33 (Parallel theme): Howbeit the high places were not taken away: for as yet the people had not prepared their hearts unto the God of their fathers.

Psalms 138:5 (References Lord): Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the LORD: for great is the glory of the LORD.

1 Kings 22:43 (References Lord): And he walked in all the ways of Asa his father; he turned not aside from it, doing that which was right in the eyes of the LORD:

nevertheless the high places were not taken away; for the people offered and burnt incense yet in the high places.

2 Chronicles 19:3 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God.

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