Prayer's Resources Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: II Chronicles 14:2-16:12.
- B. Theme: the use of prayers in life's emergencies.

II. King Asa did what was good and right before God by taking away the obscene idols.

A. Asa led the kingdom in a moral awakening.

- B. Laws and legislation do not change people's hearts, but it controls manifestations of it.
- C. As increased the defense budget in a time of peace.
- D. As a thought he was secure, but disaster surprised him.

III. What to do in times of distress.

- A. Recognize God's unique ability to help.
 - 1. God has unlimited resources.
 - 2. It does not matter whether one is mighty or weak.
- B. Request specific and divine aid for the present need.
 - 1. Ask God for help without telling Him what to do.
 - 2. God has His own way of working.
- C. He reminds God of a divinely established relationship. The relationship gives boldness.
- D. The enemy was completely routed.
- E. The Lord is with you when you are with Him.
 - 1. This speaks to the realm of the experience only, for it is true that God is always with a person.
 - 2. The Lord reminds us we are not close to Him when we feel like He is not close to us.

F. If Asa had walked in the Lord's power he would have gotten more than he had received before, but he relied on his own strength.

G. Asa's feet fell ill as a symbol that something was wrong with his walk with God. We must depend upon God as our resource.

Application questions:

1. Which step of Asa's prayer stood out to you? What struck you, specifically?

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2. How does Asa demonstrate that a failure to depend upon God for resources can end up poorly for a believer? Do you think similar things happen today?

3. What areas of your life have you failed to ask God for help? Spend some time in prayer before God asking Him to move in your life to meet you in those needs.