



# If My People Will

## 2 Chronicles 7:11-16

<sup>11</sup> When Solomon had finished the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the LORD and in his own palace, <sup>12</sup> the LORD appeared to him at night and said: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. <sup>13</sup> "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, <sup>14</sup> if my people, who are called by my name, will 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. <sup>15</sup> Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. <sup>16</sup> I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

## Lesson 3: Pray and Seek My Face

### The lack of prayer

#### ▼ Some of God's people are disobedient and distant – they're not comfortable praying

Psalm 50:16 to the wicked, God says: "What right have you to recite my laws or take my covenant on your lips? <sup>17</sup> You hate my instruction and cast my words behind you

#### ▼ Some of God's people are distracted and disinterested – they don't care about praying

2 Timothy 4:10 Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.

#### ▼ Some of God's people are dutiful but dry – they're cold and callous in their praying

Revelation 2:2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. <sup>3</sup> You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. <sup>4</sup> Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.

#### ▼ Some of God's people are discouraged and drained – they're crippled in their praying

Deuteronomy 25:17 Remember what the Amalekites did to you along the way when you came out of Egypt. <sup>18</sup> When you were weary and worn out, they met you on your journey and cut off all who were lagging behind;

### The launch into prayer

#### ▶ A return to prayer must focus on rekindling and restoring relationship

2 Chronicles 7:14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face

- ▶ This is a privileged relationship with God
- ▶ This is a personal relationship with God
- ▶ This is a priority relationship with God

#### ▼ A return to prayer must focus on repentance

Hosea 14:2 Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to him: "Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips.

#### ▼ A return to prayer must focus on refilling and refueling

Psalm 85:6 Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? <sup>7</sup> Show us your unfailing love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

### The lifeline of prayer

#### ▼ Prayer is a lifeline from the Lord

2 Chronicles 7:15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. <sup>16</sup> I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

#### ▼ Prayer is a conduit of continual communication

1 Thessalonians 5:16 Be joyful always; <sup>17</sup> pray continually; <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

#### ▼ Prayer is a road to refreshing and renewal

Isaiah 40:30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; <sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

#### ▼ Prayer is a path to provision and peace

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

#### ▼ Prayer is a window to wisdom

Jeremiah 33:2 "This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it—the LORD is his name: <sup>3</sup> 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'

#### ▼ Prayer is a jumpstart to joy

Psalm 16:11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

#### ▼ Prayer is a sanctuary for the soul

Psalm 84:10 Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.