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“If”

Series: Divided Heart, Divided Nation

The Village Church at Shell Point

Evening Service

October 6, 2024

I. Introduction

A. Only verse anyone knows in Chronicles

1. **2 Chronicles 7:14** (ESV) —
 - a. 14 if my people
 - b. who are called by my name
 - c. humble themselves,
 - d. and pray
 - e. and seek my face
 - f. and turn from their wicked ways,
 - g. then I will hear from heaven
 - h. and will forgive their sin
 - i. and heal their land.

B. Evangelicals have used that verse to spur prayer for revival

1. Stresses the importance of humility and prayer

C. Context

1. God appears to Solomon
 - a. 2nd time –
 - b. 1st time was at Gibeon prior to building the temple
 - (1) God asks what he wants
 - (2) Solomon asks for wisdom rather than riches and glory
 - (3) God gives wisdom plus riches and glory
2. Solomon has been building
 - a. Temple – 7 years
 - (1) Following – dedicated the temple about 11 months later
 - (2) Prayer of dedication
 - (a) 1 Kings 8
 - (b) pp: 1 Chronicles 6
 - (c) Studied in the last message
 - b. Palace complex – took 12 or 13 years
3. After building all of that – God appears again
4. **2 Chronicles 7:12** (ESV) —
 - a. 12 Then the LORD appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him:
him:
 - b. “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice.”
5. What! What prayer?

- a. Prayer of dedication – 12 years ago!
- 6. **2 Chronicles 7:13** (ESV) —
 - a. 13 “When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people...”
- 7. **2 Chronicles 6:26–28** (ESV) —
 - a. 26 “When heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against you, if they pray toward this place and acknowledge your name and turn from their sin, when you afflict them,
 - b. 27 then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of your servants, your people Israel, when you teach them the good way in which they should walk, and grant rain upon your land, which you have given to your people as an inheritance.
 - c. 28 “If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence or blight or mildew or locust or caterpillar, if their enemies besiege them in the land at their gates, whatever plague, whatever sickness there is...”
- 8. Speaks of the patience we need when we pray
 - a. God is responding to the prayer he prayed 12 years prior
 - b. Solomon may have prayed this prayer many times during the 12 years
 - (1) But that just speaks to the perseverance needed
 - c. God’s timing for answered prayer isn’t always ours
- D. **Conditional nature** of the entire encounter
 - 1. **“IF”** used 5 times in 13-22
 - a. Followed by **“then”** indicating consequences for certain actions
 - 2. **2 Chronicles 7:11–22** (ESV) —
 - a. 11 Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD and the king’s house.
 - b. All that Solomon had planned to do in the house of the LORD and in his own house he successfully accomplished.
 - c. 12 Then the LORD appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice.
 - d. 13 When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people,
 - e. 14 if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways,
 - f. then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.
 - g. 15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.
 - h. 16 For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever.
 - i. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.

- j. 17 And as for you, if you will walk before me as David your father walked, doing according to all that I have commanded you and keeping my statutes and my rules,
- k. 18 then I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to rule Israel.’
- l. 19 “But if you turn aside and forsake my statutes and my commandments that I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them,
- m. 20 then I will pluck you up from my land that I have given you, and this house that I have consecrated for my name,
- n. I will cast out of my sight, and I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples.
- o. 21 And at this house, which was exalted, everyone passing by will be astonished and say, ‘Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?’
- p. 22 Then they will say, ‘Because they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods and worshiped them and served them.
- q. Therefore he has brought all this disaster on them.’ ”

II. **Key observations**

- A. 2 Chronicles 7.14 does not appear in 1 Kings 9 account of the same encounter
 - 1. Chronicles was written for the return of the exiles
 - 2. Means of restoration would be very important to returning exiles
 - a. Seeking healing for their land as they reconstructed temple and Jerusalem – reoccupy the promised land
 - b. Humility
 - c. Prayer
 - d. Seeking God
 - e. Repentance
- B. Many occasions in which 2 Chronicles illustrates this principle
 - 1. 2 Chronicles 7.14 introduces a theme
 - a. For which variations through the period of the divided kingdom could drive home the point
 - 2. **2 Chronicles 12:1–8** (ESV) —
 - a. 1 When the rule of Rehoboam was established and he was strong, he abandoned the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him.
 - b. 2 In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, because they had been unfaithful to the LORD, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem
 - c. 3 with 1,200 chariots and 60,000 horsemen.
 - d. And the people were without number who came with him from Egypt—Libyans, Sukkiim, and Ethiopians.
 - e. 4 And he took the fortified cities of Judah and came as far as Jerusalem.

- f. 5 Then Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam and to the princes of Judah, who had gathered at Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said to them,
 - g. “Thus says the LORD, ‘You abandoned me, so I have abandoned you to the hand of Shishak.’ ”
 - h. 6 Then the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, “The LORD is righteous.”
 - i. 7 When the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah:
 - j. “They have humbled themselves. I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance, and my wrath shall not be poured out on Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak.
 - k. 8 Nevertheless, they shall be servants to him, that they may know my service and the service of the kingdoms of the countries.”
3. Civil war between Judah and Israel in early days of divided kingdom
4. **2 Chronicles 13:13–19** (ESV) —
- a. 13 Jeroboam had sent an ambush around to come upon them from behind.
 - b. Thus his troops were in front of Judah, and the ambush was behind them.
 - c. 14 And when Judah looked, behold, the battle was in front of and behind them.
 - d. And they cried to the LORD, and the priests blew the trumpets.
 - e. 15 Then the men of Judah raised the battle shout.
 - f. And when the men of Judah shouted, God defeated Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.
 - g. 16 The men of Israel fled before Judah, and God gave them into their hand.
 - h. 17 Abijah and his people struck them with great force, so there fell slain of Israel 500,000 chosen men.
 - i. 18 Thus the men of Israel were subdued at that time, and the men of Judah prevailed, because they relied on the LORD, the God of their fathers.
 - j. 19 And Abijah pursued Jeroboam and took cities from him, Bethel with its villages and Jeshanah with its villages and Ephron with its villages.
5. **2 Chronicles 14:9–15** (ESV) —
- a. 9 Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and came as far as Mareshah.
 - b. 10 And Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up their lines of battle in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.
 - c. 11 And Asa cried to the LORD his God,
 - d. “O LORD, there is none like you to help, between the mighty and the weak.

- e. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this multitude.
 - f. O LORD, you are our God; let not man prevail against you.”
 - g. 12 So the LORD defeated the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.
 - h. 13 Asa and the people who were with him pursued them as far as Gerar, and the Ethiopians fell until none remained alive, for they were broken before the LORD and his army. The men of Judah carried away very much spoil.
 - i. 14 And they attacked all the cities around Gerar, for the fear of the LORD was upon them. They plundered all the cities, for there was much plunder in them.
 - j. 15 And they struck down the tents of those who had livestock and carried away sheep in abundance and camels.
 - k. Then they returned to Jerusalem.
6. **2 Chronicles 18:28–34** (ESV) —
- a. 28 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead.
 - b. 29 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat,
 - c. “I will disguise myself and go into battle, but you wear your robes.”
 - d. And the king of Israel disguised himself, and they went into battle.
 - e. 30 Now the king of Syria had commanded the captains of his chariots, “Fight with neither small nor great, but only with the king of Israel.”
 - f. 31 As soon as the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, they said, “It is the king of Israel.”
 - g. So they turned to fight against him.
 - h. And Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him; God drew them away from him.
 - i. 32 For as soon as the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back from pursuing him.
 - j. 33 But a certain man drew his bow at random and struck the king of Israel between the scale armor and the breastplate.
 - k. Therefore he said to the driver of his chariot, “Turn around and carry me out of the battle, for I am wounded.”
 - l. 34 And the battle continued that day, and the king of Israel was propped up in his chariot facing the Syrians until evening.
 - m. Then at sunset he died.
7. **2 Chronicles 20:1–25** (ESV) —
- a. 1 After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.
 - b. 2 Some men came and told Jehoshaphat,
 - c. “A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar” (that is, Engedi).

- d. 3 Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.
- e. 4 And Judah assembled to seek help from the LORD; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.
- f. 5 And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,
- g. 6 and said, “O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven?
- h. You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations.
- i. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you.
- j. 7 Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?
- k. 8 And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying,
- l. 9 ‘If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you—for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.’
- m. 10 And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy—
- n. 11 behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit.
- o. 12 O our God, will you not execute judgment on them?
- p. For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”
- q. 13 Meanwhile all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.
- r. 14 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.
- s. 15 And he said, “Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat:
- t. Thus says the LORD to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God’s.
- u. 16 Tomorrow go down against them.
- v. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz.
- w. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel.
- x. 17 You will not need to fight in this battle.
- y. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.’
- z. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed.

- aa. Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you.”
- bb. 18 Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshiping the LORD.
- cc. 19 And the Levites, of the Kohathites and the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.
- dd. 20 And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa.
- ee. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said,
- ff. “Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem!
- gg. Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed.”
- hh. 21 And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the LORD and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, “Give thanks to the LORD, for his steadfast love endures forever.”
- ii. 22 And when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed.
- jj. 23 For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another.
- kk. 24 When Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness, they looked toward the horde, and behold, there were dead bodies lying on the ground; none had escaped.
- ll. 25 When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found among them, in great numbers, goods, clothing, and precious things, which they took for themselves until they could carry no more.
- mm. They were three days in taking the spoil, it was so much.
- 8. Sennacharib (Assyrian king) invades Judah
 - a. Sennacharib’s servants taunted Jerusalem for trusting in Hezekiah
- 9. **2 Chronicles 32:20–23** (ESV) —
 - a. 20 Then Hezekiah the king and Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, prayed because of this and cried to heaven.
 - b. 21 And the LORD sent an angel, who cut off all the mighty warriors and commanders and officers in the camp of the king of Assyria.
 - c. So he returned with shame of face to his own land.
 - d. And when he came into the house of his god, some of his own sons struck him down there with the sword.
 - e. 22 So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib king of Assyria and from the hand of all his enemies, and he provided for them on every side.

- f. 23 And many brought gifts to the LORD to Jerusalem and precious things to Hezekiah king of Judah, so that he was exalted in the sight of all nations from that time onward.
10. **2 Chronicles 33:10–13** (ESV) —
- a. 10 The LORD spoke to Manasseh and to his people, but they paid no attention.
 - b. 11 Therefore the LORD brought upon them the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria, who captured Manasseh with hooks and bound him with chains of bronze and brought him to Babylon.
 - c. 12 And when he was in distress, he entreated the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.
 - d. 13 He prayed to him, and God was moved by his entreaty and heard his plea and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom.
 - e. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.
- C. **How applicable is 2 Chronicles 7.14 to the rest of us?**
- 1. Rooted in Solomon’s prayer
 - a. Related to the Davidic covenant
 - (1) Promises to Solomon for that time and place
 - b. Seen several aspects of the language that comes directly from that prayer
 - 2. But other aspects of the promise come from other passages of the OT
 - 3. **Leviticus 26:40–42** (ESV) —
 - a. 40 “But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me,
 - b. 41 so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies—
 - c. if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity,
 - d. 42 then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.
 - 4. **Jeremiah 33:1–9** (ESV) —
 - a. 1 The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah a second time, while he was still shut up in the court of the guard:
 - b. 2 “Thus says the LORD who made the earth, the LORD who formed it to establish it—the LORD is his name:
 - c. 3 Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.
 - d. 4 For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city and the houses of the kings of Judah that were torn down to make a defense against the siege mounds and against the sword:

- e. 5 They are coming in to fight against the Chaldeans and to fill them with the dead bodies of men whom I shall strike down in my anger and my wrath, for I have hidden my face from this city because of all their evil.
 - f. 6 Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security.
 - g. 7 I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and rebuild them as they were at first.
 - h. 8 I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.
 - i. 9 And this city shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory before all the nations of the earth who shall hear of all the good that I do for them.
 - j. They shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the prosperity I provide for it.
5. Both passages quoted in other parts of Chronicles dealing with restoration
 6. Then there are warning passages
 7. **Deuteronomy 29:24–28** (ESV) —
 - a. 24 all the nations will say, ‘Why has the LORD done thus to this land? What caused the heat of this great anger?’
 - b. 25 Then people will say, ‘It is because they abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt,
 - c. 26 and went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they had not known and whom he had not allotted to them.
 - d. 27 Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, bringing upon it all the curses written in this book,
 - e. 28 and the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger and fury and great wrath, and cast them into another land, as they are this day.’
 8. What God promised to Solomon, He essentially established for all Israel
 - a. God is a source of great blessing
 - (1) Welfare in the land is assured
 - (2) Forgiveness of their sins is promised
 - (3) Healing and restoration will take place
 - b. As long as they ...
 - (1) Humble themselves
 - (2) Pray
 - (3) Seek God
 - (4) Repent

III. **New Testament Applications**

A. **My people**

1. **Ephesians 2:11–22** (ESV) —

- a. 11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—
- b. 12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
- c. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- d. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility
- e. 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,
- f. 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.
- g. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.
- h. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.
- i. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
- j. 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,
- k. 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.
- l. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

B. **Humble**

- 1. **James 4:6–9** (ESV) —
 - a. 6 But he gives more grace.
 - b. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”
 - c. 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
 - d. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.
 - e. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
 - f. 9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.
- 2. **1 Peter 5:5–7** (ESV) —
 - a. 5 ... Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

- b. 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,
- c. 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

C. **Pray**

1. **Luke 18:1–8** (ESV) —

- a. 1 And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.
- b. 2 He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man.
- c. 3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’
- d. 4 For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man,
- e. 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’ ”
- f. 6 And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says.
- g. 7 And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?
- h. 8 I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily.
- i. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

D. **Seek God**

1. **Matthew 6:32–34** (ESV) —

- a. 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.
- b. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- c. 34 “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

2. **Matthew 7:7–11** (ESV) —

- a. 7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
- b. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.
- c. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone?
- d. 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?
- e. 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

3. **Hebrews 11:6** (ESV) —

- a. 6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

- E. **Turn (repentance)**
1. Learned last week that repentance was taught by...
 - a. John the Baptist
 - b. Jesus
 - c. Apostles
 2. **Luke 15:3–10** (ESV) —
 - a. 3 So he told them this parable:
 - b. 4 “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?
 - c. 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.
 - d. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’
 - e. 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.
 - f. 8 “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it?
 - g. 9 And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’
 - h. 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”
- F. **Hear**
1. **John 14:13–14** (ESV) —
 - a. 13 Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
 - b. 14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.
 2. **John 15:7–10** (ESV) —
 - a. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
 - b. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.
 - c. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.
 - d. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.
- G. **Forgive**
1. **Colossians 2:13–14** (ESV) —
 - a. 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

- b. 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands.
- c. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

H. **Heal land**

- 1. **James 5:13–16** (ESV) —
 - a. 13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.
 - b. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.
 - c. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.
 - d. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up.
 - e. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.
 - f. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.
 - g. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

IV. **What about the warnings?**

A. **Hebrews 12:4–13** (ESV) —

- 1. 4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.
- 2. 5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.
- 3. 6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”
- 4. 7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?
- 5. 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.
- 6. 9 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them.
- 7. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?
- 8. 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.
- 9. 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
- 10. 12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees,
- 11. 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

B. **Revelation 3:15–20** (ESV) —

- 1. 15 “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!
- 2. 16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

3. 17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.
4. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.
5. 19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.
6. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

V. Conclusion

- A. Continuity in scripture
 1. Essential themes tie everything together
- B. 2 Chronicles 7.14 turns out to be one of those summary statements of key biblical messages
 1. Humility
 2. Prayer
 3. Seeking
 4. Repentance
- C. All are conditions for the blessing of God
 1. Particularly His presence