

The Key to Getting God's Best

1 Kings 9:1-9

Our faithfulness or lack of it either invites or blocks God's best for our lives.

- **AT CRITICAL TIMES IN OUR LIVES, A PERSONAL WORD FROM GOD CAN BE LIFE-CHANGING.**

So Solomon finished building the Temple of the LORD, as well as the royal palace. He completed everything he had planned to do. ²Then the LORD appeared to Solomon a second time, as he had done before at Gibeon.

1 Kings 9:1-2 (New Living Translation)

God's Word to Solomon

- An assurance of His presence

The LORD said to him, "I have heard your prayer and your petition. I have set this Temple apart to be holy—this place you have built where my name will be honored forever. I will always watch over it, for it is dear to my heart."

1 Kings 9:3 (NLT)

- A reminder of how important faithfulness is in gaining God's best

"As for you, if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, ⁵I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'"

1 Kings 9:4-5 (New International Version)

- Integrity of heart = moral uprightness, obedience to God, faithfulness to God

King David's example: Not perfection, but fidelity to God

Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. Psalm 139:7b-8 (NIV)

- What does God's best include? His best plan, best wisdom, best blessing, best support

- **GOD SPEAKS TO HELP US AVOID THREE CONSEQUENCES OF UNFAITHFULNESS.**

"But if you or your descendants abandon me and disobey the commands and decrees I have given you, and if you serve and worship other gods, ⁷then I will uproot Israel from this land that I have given them. I will reject this Temple that I have made holy to honor my name. I will make Israel an object of mockery and ridicule among the nations. ⁸And though this Temple is impressive now, all who pass by will be appalled and will shake their heads in amazement. They will ask, 'Why did the LORD do such terrible things to this land and to this Temple?' ⁹"And the answer will be, 'Because his people abandoned the LORD their God, who brought their ancestors out of Egypt, and they worshiped other gods instead and bowed down to them. That is why the LORD has brought all these disasters on them.'" 1 Kings 9:6-9 (NLT)

All these things happened to them as examples for others, and they were written down as a warning for us . . . ¹²Those who think they are standing firm had better be careful that they do not fall. 1 Corinthians 10:11-12 (Good News Bible)

- Infidelity = disloyalty to God, unfaithfulness to God
- "Other gods" = other forces that compete with and replace God in my life

Three Consequences of Unfaithfulness

- Loss of blessing

That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. ³²When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined . . . 1 Corinthians 11:30, 32 (NIV)

- Loss of God's visible presence

- Loss of God's plans