

## DANGER OF DEPENDENCE

TEXT: (II Chronicles 24:1-2, 17-19, NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Joash was seven years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem forty years. His mother's name was Zibiah; she was from Beersheba. <sup>2</sup> Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the years of Jehoiada the priest.

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<sup>17</sup> After the death of Jehoiada, the officials of Judah came and paid homage to the king, and he listened to them. <sup>18</sup> They abandoned the temple of the LORD, the God of their ancestors, and worshiped Asherah poles and idols. Because of their guilt, God's anger came on Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup> Although the LORD sent prophets to the people to bring them back to him, and though they testified against them, they would not listen.

KEY VERSE: "Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the years of Jehoiada the priest" (II Chronicles 24:2, NIV).

## INTRODUCTION

1. "But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram and sister of Ahaziah, took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the royal princes, who were about to be murdered. She put him and his nurse in a bedroom to hide him from Athaliah; so he was not killed. He remained hidden with his nurse at the temple of the LORD for six years while Athaliah ruled the land" (II Kings 11:2-3, NIV).
2. "Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the years of Jehoiada the priest" (II Chronicles 24:2, NIV).
3. "Jehoiada then made a covenant that he, the people and the king would be the LORD's people. All the people went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They smashed the altars and idols and killed Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altars" (II Chronicles 23:16-17, NIV).

## I. THE ROLE OF YOUR PASTOR IN YOUR LIFE

## A. To Feed and Sustain You

1. "Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17, NIV).
2. "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good" (I Peter 2:2-3, NIV).
3. "But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram, took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the royal princes who were about to be murdered and put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Because Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram and wife of the priest Jehoiada, was Ahaziah's sister, she hid the child from Athaliah so she could not kill him. He remained hidden with them at the temple of God for six years while Athaliah ruled the land" (II Chronicles 22:12-12, NIV).

## B. To Equip You to Minister

1. "It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-13, NIV).
2. "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it" (I Corinthians 12:27, NIV).

## C. To Guide You in Godliness

1. "If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command" (I Corinthians 14:37, NIV).
2. "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.' At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke" (Isaiah 6:1-4, NIV).
3. "'Woe to me!' I cried. 'I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty'" (Isaiah 6:5, NIV).

## II. BECOMING A FOUNDATIONAL FAMILY

## A. Foundational Families Recognize the Bible as God's Word

1. "Jesus replied, 'You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God'" (Matthew 22:29, NIV).
2. "You stumble day and night, and the prophets stumble with you. So I will destroy your mother—my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:5-6, NIV).

## B. Foundational Families Recognize Pastoral Leadership

1. "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God" (Romans 13:1, NIV).
2. "Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work" (I Thessalonians 5:12-13, NIV).

## C. Foundational Families Love Holiness

1. "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15, NIV).
2. "Let those who love the LORD hate evil" (Psalm 97:10, NIV).

## III. FOUNDATIONAL FAMILIES RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO BE COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE

## A. Foundational Families Will Be in Church

1. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship" (Romans 12:1, NIV).

2. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing" (II Timothy 4:7-8, NIV).

B. Foundational Families Are Committed to the Cause of Christ

1. "They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name" (Acts 5:40-42, NIV).

C. Foundational Families Are Committed to the Church's Mission

1. "And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith" (Matthew 13:58, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "He has promised, 'Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.' The words 'once more' indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain" (Hebrews 12:26-27, NIV).

QUESTIONS:

1. Why is a pastor important in your life?
2. How can over-dependence on the pastor be dangerous?
3. Define a Foundational Family (Person).
4. What are the characteristic of a Foundational Family?
- 5 Why did Joash fail?