

## Strong Support

*“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him.”*

*2 Chronicles 16:9a*

Asa's reign in Judah started well. He tore down high places and commanded Judah to seek after God. So God gave Asa peace and fought for Asa against such armies as the Ethiopians. Toward the end of his life, however, we read that Asa turned from God. Asa even took silver and gold from the house of God and sent them to the king of Syria so that the king would fight with Asa. It is because of this that Hanani the seer spoke to Asa these words. In fact, Hanani told Asa that God would have given Asa *strong support* against the king of Israel. What makes these words so meaningful to us is that Hanani not only referred to kings in wars. God looks throughout *the whole earth* to give strong support to the blameless in heart.

The blamelessness of the heart has a direction, and its direction is important. The blamelessness of the heart must be directed toward God. It wasn't enough for Asa to be blameless toward the king of Syria and it's not enough for us to be blameless toward family or friends or neighbors. Being blameless in those directions is certainly important, but it's not the most important direction of a blameless heart. God isn't looking at blamelessness toward others. He's looking at blamelessness toward him.

And those blameless toward him are given *strong support*. The implication is that God does more than merely give the tools to conquer. He conquers for us and with us. He doesn't give light support or flimsy support but strong support. The kind of support that has no choice but to succeed in what it supports.

We would do well never to forget that God is actively looking for those who are blameless toward him. Sometimes it's easier to believe that God doesn't notice us when we're blameless in heart toward him – that God knows when we're wicked but not when we're faithful. As if God doesn't overlook the wicked but he overlooks the righteous. What we see here is that God searches for the pure in heart to give strong support because God wants to help us fight our battles. Our battles might be as large as wars on a political scale and it might be as small as a temptation we fight. In our battles, God isn't rooting for us on the sidelines. He's on the field with us. And he's actively looking for people for whom to fight.

**[DJR]**