

## WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

### 2 Chronicles 7:15-22

**Introduction:** Our country is in a big mess. Have you ever wondered just what it will take for our country to come back to God? No doubt at one time our country was very "God" minded and everywhere one turned there was something to remind him/her that God was honored and believed in. It's not like that anymore. What will it take for God to have back what is rightfully His? This country! Nobody can deny God His right to claim or command that which He has created. Over and over the scriptures tell us that God is a jealous God: *Exodus 20:5; 34:14; Deuteronomy 4:24; 29:20; Joshua 24:19*. These verses positively declare that God is a jealous God. Of what is God jealous? What is rightfully His! What will it take and how far must God go to reclaim His own?

### I. WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO BRING A FULL SURRENDER OF OUR LIVES TO GOD?

1. It took the death of the good friend of Isaiah, King Uzziah, to bring Isaiah to full surrender.
  - God may have to remove that which stands in the way of our country's complete devotion. Even the dearest to us may be claimed by God.
  - What will it take to get us to fully surrender to God's will for our lives?
2. It took an embarrassing tragedy in the life of David.
  - David was embarrassed, humiliated, but finally he humbled himself and called for God's mercy.
  - Could it be that God may have to do publicly humiliate and expose us of something we have hidden and maybe even forgotten about to bring us to submission to Him?
3. It took a storm to awaken Jonah to his responsibility of serving and witnessing.
  - God had to put Jonah into stormy waters to bring him into submission.
  - Our nation is in a dangerous situation for we have left God and are going our own wild way. Even us Christians have gone to sleep on the job with orders from God to witness and to evangelize the world.
  - It took a storm to awaken Jonah, what will it take to awaken our country?
4. It took the loss of Samson's strength and sight to bring him back to full surrender.
  - Samson was a powerhouse of strength until he began flirting around with sin and began to conform to the world around him.
  - How far must God go in order to have us use our lives for Him as we should?
5. It took a life of shame and poverty to bring back the prodigal son.
  - He looked at himself and then looked back home. He then came to himself.
  - How far must God go with us?
  - How far are we going to push God before God begins to get that which belongs to Him?
  - God wants our lives for He bought us with a price and we belong to Him, therefore we ought to certainly glorify God in our bodies and lives.

## II. WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO BRING US TO GIVE GOD THAT WHICH IS HIS?

1. What will it take and how far must God go in order to get His Day back? There is one day of the week which He dedicated to Himself and we are to spiritually replenish our lives.
  - All over our country God's day is being used for selfishness and greed rather than for God.
  - God's very own children, us, catch up on our own personal work, pleasure and fellowship, all on the Lord's Day and at the Lord's expense.
  - The Bible authorizes six days for us to do our business, take care of our affairs but God reserves the 7th day for Himself.
  - What will it take to bring our country back to keeping God's Day holy?
2. What will it take for God to have "Holy" money?
  - God tells us in the book of Malachi to ***"bring all the tithe into the storehouse..."*** Not just a part of it, but all of it.
  - When we give God the tithe which is His, then we can more fully carry the Gospel to all the world as we are supposed to be doing.
  - What will it take for God to get His tithe from us?
  - What will it take for God to bring us back to plain honesty with Him?

## III. WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO BRING US TO FULL SURRENDER TO GOD?

1. What will it take for those who have never accepted God's Son, Jesus Christ, to finally believe in Him and trust Him for their eternal existence?
  - What will it take for you, your family, your friends to fully surrender to God? Your life?
  - It took the life of Stephen being stoned to death to help bring Paul to Jesus.
  - It will take dedication on the part of women who have unsaved husbands, dedication on the part of men who have unsaved wives, dedication on the part of parents who have unsaved children. If you love them, then help them surrender to God.
2. For some to surrender fully to God it only takes a personal call, an invitation to accept Jesus.
  - It took only a call for James, John, Peter and Andrew. They responded quickly from a call from Jesus. ***"Come and follow me..."***
3. God is still calling. Perhaps you have heard Him call before, will you not respond in obedience and faith in Jesus?

## CONCLUSION:

1. What will it take to bring you to God?
  - A full, complete, total surrender, nothing with held, all finally given to God.
2. One by one our nation can be brought back to God. Will you be that first one to fully surrender to God?
3. There will come a time when God will begin to take back that which is His if it is not given.