**If My People Pray**

2 Chronicles 7:11-22

**Introductory Note:** 1 and 2 Chronicles were written to the Israelites who returned from their captivity in Babylon. What questions might they have had about God and his promises given to Abraham and David, when they saw the destroyed temple and ruins of Jerusalem? Would God be faithful? The Chronicler reminds them of God's word given to Solomon in answer to his prayer of temple dedication which had happened about four centuries earlier.  There God had already told them the way to be restored to Him through repentance and prayer. His full restoration, however, will be completed to those who repent of their sins and believe in Jesus, who is the temple and sacrifice for their sins.

1.Read verses 11-12. a What had Solomon just finished & how did God respond to his accomplishments? b Even though Solomon had accomplished so much, why was this time of prosperity the most dangerous period of his life? (Pr 16:18) c What promise of blessing did the Lord make to Solomon & how was there a warning in it too? (13-14).

2. Take apart the 4 conditions of God’s promise in verse 14. a Why does he start with saying “If”? b Why could it have been hard for Solomon to be humble & why does God start w/ this condition first? c Why do you think God ends with repentance as the last condition? How does prayer relate to all the conditions?

3. Read verses 15-16. a What happens when we pray in the way God wants us too & how does this show the secret of moving His heart? b What other conditions did God require of Solomon & what would be the fruit if he obeyed? (17-18) c What would happen if Solomon disobeyed & what did he eventually end up doing? (19-22; 1 King 11:3-6 & 9-11)

***\*Challenge question: Which of the 4 conditions of God’s promise in verse 14 do you need to work on & how can you do so?***

Cross Reference Verses:

**Proverbs 16:18:** Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

**1 Kings 11:3-6: 3**He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. **4**As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. **5**He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. **6**So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord; he did not follow the Lord completely, as David his father had done.

**1 Kings 11:9-11:** **9**The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. **10**Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the Lord’s command. **11**So the Lord said to Solomon, “Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates.