

## Spiritual Renewal

1-5-13

Psalm 51:10 - *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

King Josiah is called the most devout king of Israel (*Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him - 2 Kings 23:25*) Perhaps this is because he understood how to accomplish a spiritual renewal.

**Step 1 for Spiritual Renewal, Josiah Style** – cleanse the land of idols (II Chronicles 34:1-7) – Josiah went through the land and destroyed every idol he found, beginning in the Temple.

While we think that we are far removed from the idolatry of Josiah's day, we are not. We are told to flee from idolatry (1 Corinthians 10:14), and that idolatry is covetousness (Colossians 3:5).

**Step 2 for Spiritual Renewal, Josiah Style** – Restore the Temple (II Chronicles 34:8-13). Josiah then went into the Temple and cleaned it. It had been desecrated by his grandfather Manasseh, and had been derelict for decades. He took money and began to rebuild the Temple.

We might think that as Christians we do not have a temple, but we do. We are the temple (1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). The Bible says that this Temple is desecrated by our immorality (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

**Step 3 for Spiritual Renewal, Josiah Style** – Find the Law (II Chronicles 34:14-27). When cleaning out the Temple, Josiah found the Law. Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of his character is that when he found that he had not been obedient to the Law, he did not comfort himself that his previous actions had reconciled him to God; instead, he mourned his error and sought God through the prophetess Huldah.

Can we expect to be right with God, even after trying to do great works, if we do not know His word? Paul told Timothy that he needed to be diligent to know God's will, so that he would not be ashamed to stand before God (2 Timothy 2:15). Paul told the Corinthians that self-examination was vital to ALL Christians (2 Corinthians 13:5).

What made Josiah's Spiritual Renewal successful? Josiah tore some things down. Then he fixed some things that existed. Finally, he changed and built new things. This made his renewal accomplished. We ought to follow this pattern in this new year: tearing down everything that comes before God; Making our body a Temple and living sacrifice, and keeping it pure; finally, by using the Word DAILY to change yourself.