

## Study on “Willing” and “Volunteer”

“And next him was Amasiah the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself unto the LORD, and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valour (Chronicles 17:16).

***Who was Amasiah? What does it mean that he willingly offer himself? Why is he the only one that is listed with that description?***

Amasiah was the son of an Israelite, from the tribe of Judah. He was amongst those that King Jehoshaphat had singled out as “experienced fighting men kept in Jerusalem” (2 Chronicles 17:13). There are no other references to him any other place in God’s Word. Zichri, his father, shared his name with 11 other Israelites, who also are listed in God’s Word. There are 12 references to the name of Zichri, which correlates to the Strong’s Concordance reference that there were 12 Israelites with that name. To my knowledge, this is the only time that Amasiah’s father was mentioned. What makes Amasiah stand out from the others? *He willingly offer himself unto the Lord.* What does this mean?

The Hebrew meaning of “willing” is found in Strong’s Concordance #5068: *A primitive root; to impel; hence to volunteer (as a soldier), to present spontaneously: - offer freely, be (give, make, offer self) willing (-ly).*

Webster’s definition of impel is: *To drive or urge forward; to press on; to excite to action or to move forward, by the application of physical force, or moral suasion or necessity.*

Notice what impel means:

- ◆ To drive
- ◆ Urge forward
- ◆ To press on
- ◆ To excite to action
- ◆ To move forward
- ◆ By applying physical force (work)
- ◆ By applying moral suasion (to persuade)-Webster’s defines persuade as: to convince by argument, or reasons offered; or to convince by reasons suggested by reflection or deliberation, or by evidence presented in any manner to the mind.

***Is this not what the New Hope materials do for a genuine seeker? Does it not urge them forward, to press on, to move them forward into the Word...the Word of Truth...to discover Biblical Principles!—For I am persuaded!***

The last word of the definition of impel is “necessity.” Webster defines “necessity” as: *irresistible power; compulsive force; physical or moral. Application by sentence: If a man’s actions are determined by causes beyond his control, he acts from necessity, and is not a free agent.*

***A couple of thoughts from the definition of necessity:***

***1. Those at New Hope are burdened with the pressing need (necessity) of getting these materials into the hands of all seeking the Truth, seeking Hope, seeking the Healer!***

***2. “Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,” saith the Lord of Hosts (Zechariah 4:6). We are not a free agent, as we are “in Christ” and empowered by His Spirit. In our own strength, we can do nothing! However, by His Spirit we are empowered! Acts 1:8 says, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” We serve the Greatest Commander of All...the Almighty, Victorious King of kings! (Selah...means stop and think about this.) What an amazing Truth!***

Pressing forward, after the definition: to impel, it says, “hence to volunteer.” That is exactly what the *Scriptures* translation says! (The *Scriptures* translation is a Hebrew Bible.) It reads, “volunteered himself” to the Lord. As I mull over the above, it is apparent that the meaning of volunteer is much deeper than “simply agreeing to do something.” I want to learn more!

In 2 Chronicles 17:14-18, there is a list of men with the number of soldiers in each group. Amasiah was the only one listed as “willingly offered himself unto the Lord.” Why was that? Is there a difference between Amasiah and the other men? Did they not “all” volunteer? Could it perhaps have to do with inner motives? Did the others come forward out of duty to their king and nation, but not out of devotion, passionate love that caused them to “willingly offer themselves” unto the Lord first?

I believe Amasiah’s name reveals the difference. In the *Scriptures* translation, Amasiah is spelled: *Amasyah* in Hebrew. Look at the last three letters of his name: *yah*. “Yah” is one of the names of God! Amasyah’s name has the Lord’s name in it!

According to the Hebrew translation, Amasyah is made up of two words. Strong’s Concordance #6006 reveals the first part of the word *amas* meaning: *A primitive root; to load, that is, impose a burden (or figuratively infliction): - be borne, (heavy) burden (self), lade, load, put.*

The second part, “yah” according to Strong’s Concordance #3050 means: *Contracted for H3068, and meaning the same; Jah, the sacred name: - Jah, the Lord, most vehement. Cp. names in “-iah,” “-jah.”*

The entire word “amasyah,” according to Strong’s Concordance #6007 means: *Jah has loaded; Amasjah, an Israelite: - Amasiah*

The meaning of Amasiah’s name was: The Lord has loaded, or The Lord has imposed a burden. ***Amasiah had a burden, a passion for His King and willingly offered himself to the service of the King of kings!***

To dig deeper, I turned in my Life Application Study Bible, and it referred 2 Chronicles 17:16 to Judges 5:9.

“My heart is with Israel’s princes, with the willing volunteers among the people. Praise the Lord. Bless YHWH! (Judges 5:9) YHWH is a name of The Lord in Hebrew. It is sometimes written as Yahweh. Note the first part “Yah.” Deborah, the judge, and Barak are singing this song. In the footnotes it reads, “This was a victory song accompanied by joyous celebration. It proclaims God’s greatness by giving Him credit for the victory. Keep God at the center of your life and you will have the power you need to fight the enemy.”

Please note that Judges 5 is the chapter right before the account of Gideon (Judges 6). Gideon started out with 32,000 *volunteers*, yet 22,000 were afraid/fearful and left upon permission. The group then dropped down to 10,000 and then to the 300 that YHWH (The Lord in Hebrew) chose. “For many are called, but few *are* chosen” (Matthew 22:14).

***Could it be that those who are chosen have a passionate burden which drives them, (impels them), to willingly offer themselves unto the service of their Lord (YHWH), to press on, to excite into action?***

Oh how I desire to have such a passion for my King!

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New Hope Ministry and Counseling Center is blessed to have many “willing” volunteers who passionately carry the burden to see God’s will accomplished in and through New Hope for His Glory and Honor. To our Volunteers: *Your faithfulness and sacrifice is deeply appreciated!*

The lyrics of one of the newest hit worship chorus’ state: “Greater things are yet to come, greater things are still to be done in this city!” We are a part of a greater work in this city, in this nation, in our world!—God’s Majestic Kingdom!

If you have not had an opportunity to become a Volunteer at New Hope, there is a place for you! Enclosed in this packet is a list of Volunteers needed. This list is not all-inclusive, as God’s ways and thoughts are much higher and greater than ours! He may be calling you to use your talents/gifts in a special way at New Hope that is not listed yet! If God lays it on your heart to be more involved in New Hope, please be bold as Amasiah, step forward, contact us and “willingly” offer yourself to the service of the King of kings!

***“Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,” (Ephesians 3:19). God’s Amazing Grace-His empowering presence that equips us to do all that He calls us to do and to be all that He calls us to be! HalleluYah!***