

## Don't Hold Back

**1 Kings 8:54-66** <sup>54</sup> And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the Lord, he arose from before the altar of the Lord, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven. <sup>55</sup> And he stood, and blessed all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice, saying, <sup>56</sup> Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant. <sup>57</sup> The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us: <sup>58</sup> That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers. <sup>59</sup> And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the Lord, be nigh unto the Lord our God day and night, that he maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of his people Israel at all times, as the matter shall require: <sup>60</sup> That all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God, and that there is none else. <sup>61</sup> Let your heart therefore be perfect with the Lord our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day. <sup>62</sup> And the king, and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the Lord.

*Giving Honor to God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. To All of God's Sons, Daughters, and Children. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow Big Bethel Nation. Let's turn to 1 Kings 8:54-62 (KJV) as we lift up the Name of the Lord. The sermon topic is "Don't Hold Back."*

*Solomon prayed with power and wisdom as he and the people dedicated a beautiful elaborate temple to God. In fact, Solomon sacrificed a peace offering in which he had a total of 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep and goats. Wow. What an enormous sacrifice. Praise the Lord. Solomon didn't hold back. He went further than that because as a temporary measure King Solomon sanctified the court in front of the Temple for burnt offerings, grain offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings: for the bronze altar was too small to handle so much. King Solomon didn't stop there. He didn't hold back, because he launched a spiritual celebration that lasted fourteen days, a tremendous feast, and people came from one end of the land to the other to*

*join them. After the celebration of the dedication, King Solomon sent the people home, happy for all of the blessings that the Lord had shown to King David and His people Israel. The people blessed King Solomon.*

*My brothers and sisters, when Solomon finished building the temple and the palace and all the other buildings, the Lord appeared to the King the second time and said to him, "I have heard your prayer. I have hallowed this Temple that you have built and have put my name here forever. I will constantly watch over it and rejoice in it, and if you live in honesty and truth as your father David did, always obeying me, then I will cause your descendants to be the kings of Israel forever, just as I promised your father David when I told him, 'One of your sons shall always be upon the throne of Israel.'" (1 Kings 9:1)*

*God didn't stop there. God didn't hold back. Many theologians call this process conditional blessings. They are potential blessings to be received as you follow and meet the conditions prescribed by the Lord. You must follow and adhere to the conditions. So the Lord Our God also says, "However, if you or your children turn away from me and worship other gods, and do not obey my laws, then I will take away the people of Israel from this land that I have given them. I will take them from this Temple which I have hallowed for my name, and I will cast them out of my sight; and Israel will become a joke to the nations and an example and proverb of sudden disaster. This Temple will become a heap of ruins, and everyone passing by will be amazed and will whistle with astonishment, asking, 'Why has the Lord done such things to this land and this Temple?' And the answer will be, 'The people of Israel abandoned the Lord their God who brought them out of the land of Egypt; they worshiped other gods instead. That is why the Lord has brought this evil upon them.'"*

*God laid out the blessing and God also laid out the conditions for their disobedience. Listen.... my brothers and sisters. The warning was that if the*

*people disobeyed God's commands, He would not only reject the temple; He would exile the people. Apparently, Solomon didn't take this to heart, because as he grew in age, he turned from God. Make sure that you read this message clearly and several times, so that you don't fall into this calamity. (Pause for a moment.) Are you becoming complacent, losing your passion or your love for the Lord? Are you no longer reading the bible, no longer praying, no longer fellowshiping with like believers, or your church attendance isn't what it used to be? If you continue on this long dusty road, slowly, but continually slipping away from God, you will eventually become lukewarm. The word of God says, "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."*

*In closing, my brothers and my sisters – I'm encouraging you... Don't hold back. Give God your time, talent, and treasure. Don't hold back. The Joy of the Lord is our strength. (Nehemiah 8:10b). Matthew 7:13-14 teach us to "Enter through the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Don't Hold Back. Don't Hold Back. Please, Don't Hold Back. Turn it all over to the Lord. Jesus is way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him (John 4:16) Don't hold back. Christ is available to you today. Amen.*