

The Value of Spiritual Partnerships

Text: II Kings 19:8-20

Hezekiah (Hez-e-ki-ah) was the son of Ahaz and the 14th King of Judah. His story demonstrates the answer to the question that each of us have faced at one time or another; “What do I do when faced with the impossible, the uncontrollable, and the challenge you just can’t overcome?” Have you been there?

Hezekiah was faced with a military threat from the Assyrian King Sennacherib but he was delivered miraculously. What we learned from all that took place from the time he was threatened to his deliverance, and later in chapter 20 with his recovery from illness, is that key partnerships were at work. First, he had a relationship with God; II King 18:3 gives the most important bio you should have as a person: “And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that David his father did.” Secondly he had a relationship with the prophet Isaiah, spiritual advisor. A closer study of I & II Kings reveals that each King is introduced with a statement of his spiritual pedigree, “Am I right with God and is what I do in my life pleasing to Him?” Better yet, “is the life I lead a blessing to Him.” Yes, we are blessed by God, however, God is blessed by our spirituality, note how King David blessed God in 1 Chronicles 29:10.

When Hezekiah received the letters from King Sennacherib blaspheming God and threatening destruction of Judah, he took these letters and laid them before God. What a graphic display of faith, “here it is God, help me.” God then responded to his prayer by sending Isaiah with the answer to his prayer in vs. 33, “...the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it. And so it was, the entire Assyrian army was struck dead that night, and King Sennacherib escaped back to Assyria where he was murdered by his own sons.

The spiritual lesson here is, take it to the lord in prayer and he will answer. Lay before him your letters, the mate you are about to marry, the house you are about to purchase, the illness that you are dealing with, the business plans that you are pondering at work, and the relationship issues you are having with loved ones. Sometimes he will answer directly to you. At other times He may give you the answer in a Sermon you heard last Sunday or at the Revival you attended this week. The answer may come in your own personal devotion time with God. He may even send the answer to your prayer partner, or even the Stephen Minister whose purpose it is to be your spiritual partner as you go through the difficulty you face. I’m often asked the question, “does God always grant the petition you make to Him.” My answer is first of all - HE HEARS. Note the last vs. 20 in our text...where Isaiah tells Hezekiah that the Lord heard his petition. However, may leave the obstacle as it is, to use it as an opportunity to strengthen your faith. The Apostle Paul speaks of this in 1 Corinthians 10:13 and again in II Corinthians 12:8-10. Both passages address how God hears your prayer and in his omniscience, responds in your best interest.

Charles A. Tindley’s Hymn “Leave It There” aptly expresses the reliance on God: “Leave it there, leave it there, take your burden to the Lord and leave it there, If you trust and neverdoubt, he will surely bring you out, take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.”

Yours in Christ,
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