

Prayer That Works

Lesson 6

Isaiah 38

October 16, 2022

Praying When You're Desperate

INTRODUCTION

One of the most important themes in this week's message is the importance of prayer. In Isaiah chapter 38, the Bible tells us of King Hezekiah's fatal illness just prior to Assyrian King Sennacherib's threat against Jerusalem (as told earlier in Isaiah chapters 36 and 37).

Through Hezekiah's devotion to God, we see him rely heavily on God, through prayer, for recovery from his illness. This account demonstrates that God loves us and listens to our prayers. God listened to Hezekiah's prayer, and blessed him.

Because of all of the good that Hezekiah did in God's eyes, such as destroying idols in Judah, God saved Hezekiah and added 15 years to his life. The Lord knows all the good we have done, too, and will bless us when we obey His commands.

Memory verse: "Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, 'Remember, Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes.' And Hezekiah wept bitterly."—Isaiah 38:2-3

Pray, and read Isaiah 38. What questions or observations do you have about this chapter?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1. What did Isaiah say was going to happen to Hezekiah?
(Isaiah 38:1)
2. What did Hezekiah do after hearing Isaiah's message?
(Isaiah 38:2)
3. What did the Lord do in response to Hezekiah's prayer?
(Isaiah 38:5)
4. What did the Lord perform as a sign that he would heal Hezekiah? (Isaiah 38:8)
5. How was Hezekiah healed? (Isaiah 38:21)

4. Why did God give a sign that He would heal Hezekiah?
(Judges 6:16-20, 36-39; 2 Kings 20:9-11)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. What have you done that is right in the eyes of the Lord?
What have you done that is not? List areas in your life
where you can improve with help from God.

2. List times in your life during which you needed God's mercy. Did He give you a sign of His will or an answer to prayer like He did to Hezekiah through Isaiah?

3. Isaiah 38 is a testament to God's promises and blessings if we live a life devoted to the Lord. Write a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to help you walk faithfully with God and fully devoted to Him.