

## The Always God: Always Hearing 2 Kings 19 & 20

Last week, we started a new series putting forth the truth that just as God moved in the past, he is still moving today. He is the eternal, self-existent, all-powerful, all-knowing God and refers to himself as “I AM.” God has not changed over time.

Just as God called upon people to pray in the past and promised to hear their prayers, God is continuing to call people to pray because he is still hearing prayers today. The God of the universe invites us to know Him, to communicate with Him, to grow in our relationship with Him. And He does this by calling us to pray...inviting us to call upon his name. 1 Chron. 16:8b; Psalm 18:6; Jer. 33:3; Acts 2:21.

Sadly, for most of us Christians, prayer is one of the most difficult of the Christian disciplines to practice on a regular basis. It's hard. We ask questions like: For what should I pray? How long should I pray? For what do I need to pray? If God already knows what's going to happen, do my prayers even matter? And then you have the fact that our mind wanders in prayer. We get bored easily with prayer. It just seems like it would be so much easier to do something for which we are praying instead of praying.

Combine these with the fact that our enemy, Satan, will do anything in his power to keep us from praying, and as wonderful as the invitation is to “call upon the name of the Lord,” sometimes because of all the things I just mentioned, that invitation to pray is like the invitation for a new credit card...it ends up in the trash. We don't do anything with it! We don't accept the invitation.

King Hezekiah of Judah is one of the few God-honoring kings of either Israel or Judah. (2 Kings 18:5-6) This man of integrity, faith, and whole-hearted trust in the Lord prayed two different prayers, when a national crises faced Judah (2 Kings 19:14-20), and when his health was threatened (2 Kings 20:1-5).

### Healthy Prayer

*Healthy prayer includes a healthy, heart posture.*

While a physical posture does communicate attitude, the posture of the heart is more important.

Notice the response of Hezekiah in both situations (2 Kings 19:14b and 2 Kings 20:2a, 3b): Hezekiah's posture was one of humility and brokenness. God is attracted to those who are humble and broken (Psalm 34:17-18). It is a spiritual law. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble (1 Peter 5:5).

2 Kings 19:15 Hezekiah is emphasizing the sovereign rule and reign of God. He knows the world does not revolve around him, but instead is controlled by someone greater...the God of the universe. Hezekiah understands his place, and this is where all healthy prayer begins. It starts by understanding this simple fact: *we are not God*. This takes humility. It takes an element of brokenness to understand this and embrace this.

### He Is not Responding

The main reason God does not respond to your prayer is because of **pride**.

--**Unbelief** Psalm 10:4 Why pray when there is no God? Unbelief can keep God from responding to prayer. James 1:6-8 When we pray, we must pray in belief...KNOWING God hears our prayers.

--**Selfishness** James 4:3 What we are asking for is not for God's glory or His will to be done, but instead we're asking the Lord for something for the wrong reasons, with the wrong motives.

--**Disobedience** Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 66:18; Proverbs 28:9 Choosing to live in willful, habitual, sin will cause a dropped call every single time. God is not a “Genie.”

**--Fractured Relationships** Matthew 5:23-24; Mark 11:25; 1 Peter 3:7 God will not respond to your prayer if your human relationships are broken.

If you sense God is distant, let the Holy Spirit search your heart.

God is NOT looking for perfection, he's simply looking for one who displays a continual posture of humility and brokenness. Hezekiah was not perfect, recall what was said about his character. 2 Kings 18:5-7a Because of how he lived, humble before God, God was with him. And because he knew God was with him, he trusted in him.

### **Healthy Prayer Includes a Healthy Perspective.**

In his prayers, Hezekiah acknowledged the sovereign rule and reign of God, and he trusted the Lord to answer his prayer...and this is key – HOWEVER the Lord saw fit.

He ASKS God to intervene, even though he has no idea how God would move on the nation's behalf or on his desire to live longer. Because of a deep-seated trust in God the Father, he could pray with an honest heart, "Not my will, but Yours be done."

God operates on a different level than we do. His ways are not our ways. His timing is not our timing Is. 55:8-9

### **Application**

This is confession time. This is where we search our hearts for sin against God and we reflect on our sin and his forgiveness. 1 John 1:9

When we reflect on our life, decisions we have made, the motives in our heart, the sinful paths we have taken, we see we have not arrived and at the same time meet the incredible grace, love, and mercy of God.

We see in Hezekiah's prayer for his health, a man that was so broken...he didn't even know what to pray. Because God knew what was in Hezekiah's heart, He answered the prayer of Hezekiah's heart. Sometimes, we are so broken by our circumstances, we don't even know what to pray, but the Holy Spirit knows. Rom. 8:26-27

Ask God...ask God for what's on your heart. Ask Him to move in whatever situation you are facing. Ask Him to meet the needs of your loved ones. ASK! 1 John 5:14-15