

## Why Church: Prayerfully Dependent

**Passage:** Isaiah 37:9-20, 33-37

9 Soon afterward King Sennacherib received word that King Tirhakah of Ethiopia[c] was leading an army to fight against him. Before leaving to meet the attack, he sent messengers back to Hezekiah in Jerusalem with this message: 10 “This message is for King Hezekiah of Judah. Don’t let your God, in whom you trust, deceive you with promises that Jerusalem will not be captured by the king of Assyria. 11 You know perfectly well what the kings of Assyria have done wherever they have gone. They have completely destroyed everyone who stood in their way! Why should you be any different? 12 Have the gods of other nations rescued them—such nations as Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Tel-assar? My predecessors destroyed them all! 13 What happened to the king of Hamath and the king of Arpad? What happened to the kings of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah?” 14 After Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it, he went up to the Lord’s Temple and spread it out before the Lord. 15 **And Hezekiah prayed this prayer before the Lord:** 16 “O Lord of Heaven’s Armies, God of Israel, you are enthroned between the mighty cherubim! You alone are God of all the kingdoms of the earth. You alone created the heavens and the earth. 17 Bend down, O Lord, and listen! Open your eyes, O Lord, and see! Listen to Sennacherib’s words of defiance against the living God. 18 “It is true, Lord, that the kings of Assyria have destroyed all these nations. 19 And they have thrown the gods of these nations into the fire and burned them. But of course the Assyrians could destroy them! They were not gods at all—only idols of wood and stone shaped by human hands. 20 Now, O Lord our God, rescue us from his power; then all the kingdoms of the earth will know that you alone, O Lord, are God.” 21 Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent this message to Hezekiah: “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: **Because you prayed** about King Sennacherib of Assyria, 22 the Lord has spoken this word against him:

33 “And this is what the Lord says about the king of Assyria: “His armies will not enter Jerusalem.

They will not even shoot an arrow at it. They will not march outside its gates with their shields

nor build banks of earth against its walls. 34 The king will return to his own country by the same road on which he came. He will not enter this city,’

*says the Lord. 35 'For my own honor and for the sake of my servant David, I will defend this city and protect it.'" 36 That night the angel of the Lord went out to the Assyrian camp and killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. When the surviving Assyrians[g] woke up the next morning, they found corpses everywhere. 37 Then King Sennacherib of Assyria broke camp and returned to his own land. He went home to his capital of Nineveh and stayed there.*

**Main Idea:** Are you growing in dependence on God?

**Principles:**

- 1) Prayer is a way to express our dependence on God. Prayer changes things. It can change situations and circumstances.
- 2) God wants you to pray to Him when you are fearful, desperate and need something. God wants you to pray even when you haven't done a good job because he is the only one powerful enough to rescue us and help us when we need it.
- 3) God is not a genie that works for you, but He wants us to depend on him and experience his power at work.

**Discussion Questions:**

- When you are fearful and desperate what is the first thing you usually turn to?
- Why don't you usually think to pray when you need something?
- How often do you pray?
- Have you ever seen God answer one of your prayers? Have you seen him change a situation because you prayed about it?
- What is one thing you are praying about right now?
- What is one thing you would like your group to pray for?