



## ***79. Pray Like Hezekiah***

*“Then Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it, and he went up to the house of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord.*

*Hezekiah prayed to the Lord saying, ‘O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, who is enthroned above the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Incline Your ear, O Lord, and hear; open Your eyes, O Lord, and see; and listen to all the words of Sennacherib, who sent them to reproach the living God. Truly, O Lord, the kings of Assyria have devastated all the countries and their lands, and have cast their gods into the fire, for they were not gods but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. So they have destroyed them. Now, O Lord our God, deliver us from his hand*

*that all ... may know that You alone, Lord, are God.'"*

Isaiah 37:14-20

The Assyrians destroyed many lands and were threatening to destroy Judah. The Assyrian King sent a threatening letter to Hezekiah, King of Judah.

Hezekiah was a political leader ... not a prophet and not a priest. He trusted God. And he prayed openly and directly. He praised the Lord ... explained the situation ... and asked for deliverance so that all would know that the Lord is God.

For Hezekiah, war was imminent, but he took the time to pray. In a simple child-like way, he spread out the King's letter before God. In submission to God, he made his open and direct appeal. When threatening circumstances tempt you that there is no time to pray, take the time to pray anyway. In threatening times, go to God in child-like faith ... simply, reverently, openly, and directly.