

How NOT To Be Intimidated?

Pastor John Carmichael

[Isa 37:14 NASB95] 14 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.

- **The enemy is using everything he can to intimidate you.** From COVID-19, political rancor, and vaccine debates to family, finances, and spiritual attacks people are getting bombarded into fear.
- **Isaiah 36:7, 10, 14-15, 18-20 – Sennacherib through Rabshakeh tried to intimidate the people so they would just give up!**
 - Don't trust the Lord.
 - God caused this. He has turned you over to the enemy.
 - Everyone else is being defeated.
 - Don't trust the Word of God or the leaders who tell you to trust God.
- **Hezekiah responded**
 - Took the letter.
 - He read the letter.
 - He went to God.
 - He spread the letter out before God.
 - He prayed.
- **God brought about a great victory because he prayed.**
 - [Isa 37:15 NASB95] 15 Hezekiah prayed to the LORD saying,
 - [Isa 37:21 NASB95] 21 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent [word] to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Because you have prayed to Me about Sennacherib king of Assyria,
 - [Isa 37:34-36 NASB95] 34 'By the way that he came, by the same he will return, and he will not come to this city,' declares the LORD. 35 'For I will defend this city to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake.'" 36 Then the angel of the LORD went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men arose early in the morning, behold, all of these were dead.

How do we fight being intimidated by the issues we deal with today?

There are seven things God wants us to do to fight intimidation today!

I. God wants us to face what is trying to intimidate us.

- a. [Isa 37:14 NASB95] 14 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.
- b. [1Pe 5:8-9 NASB95] 8 Be of sober [spirit,] be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in [your] faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.
- c. We do not dismiss not succumb to the enemy.

II. God wants us to take these issues to Him.

- a. [Isa 37:15 NASB95] 15 Hezekiah prayed to the LORD saying,
- b. [Jas 5:13 NASB95] 13 Is anyone among you suffering? [Then] he must pray.
- c. Pray should be our knee-jerk reaction to everything.

III. God wants us to praise Him while in the situation.

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- a. [Isa 37:16 NASB95] 16 "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.
- b. [Heb 13:15 NASB95] 15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.
- c. [Act 16:25-26 NASB95] 25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; 26 and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.
- d. Learn to praise God always, even when the enemy is trying to intimidate you.

IV. God wants us to be confident that He will listen to our request.

- a. [Isa 37:17 NASB95] 17 "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.
- b. [1Jo 5:14-15 NASB95] 14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us [in] whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.
- c. Believe that God is hearing you when you pray.

V. God wants us to defy the thing that is trying to intimidate us.

- a. [Isa 37:18-19 NASB95] 18 "Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have devastated all the countries and their lands, 19 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.
- b. [Mar 11:23 NASB95] 23 "Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be [granted] him.
- c. We do not deny the issue, we defy the issue!

VI. God wants us to be specific in our requests for deliverance.

- a. [Isa 37:20 NASB95] 20 "Now, O LORD our God, deliver us from his hand that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone, LORD, are God."
- b. [Luk 18:41 NASB95] 41 "What do you want Me to do for you?" And he said, "Lord, [I want] to regain my sight!"
- c. Request the answer! Start with what the Bible already says He wants to do.

VII. God wants us to expect that He will answer.

- a. [Isa 37:21 NASB95] 21 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent [word] to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Because you have prayed to Me about Sennacherib king of Assyria,
- b. [2Ki 19:20 NASB95] 20 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah saying, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Because you have prayed to Me about Sennacherib king of Assyria, **I have heard [you.]**'
- c. No matter how long it takes. No matter how hard it gets. KNOW that God will answer when we pray!

- **We overcome the intimidation of the enemy when we face issues by bringing them to God with praise and faith knowing He will defend us.**