



Prayer Changes Things

Pastor Bernard Hamp | 2 Kings 19:14-20 (KJV)

THE BIG IDEA

Bring your burden honestly to God, trust His power, and keep praying.

Sermon Summary

In Prayer Changes Things, Pastor Bernard Hamp encourages the congregation to keep a faithful prayer life. Hezekiah receives a threatening letter, takes it to the house of the Lord, and spreads it before God. He acknowledges the living God as Creator and asks for deliverance so that the kingdoms of the earth will know who the Lord is. Isaiah then brings the assurance that God has heard his prayer.

Pastor Hamp emphasizes that prayer first changes the person who prays. Surrender replaces the attempt to carry everything alone, and remembering God's past faithfulness strengthens trust. Hezekiah's example connects prayer with an obedient life and shows that a difficult background need not determine a person's direction.

The message calls listeners to lay their troubles before God, give Him honor, speak honestly, and persevere. Prayer is a relationship of dependence on the living God. The closing encouragement is to speak from the heart without trying to imitate another person's style of prayer.

Memory Verse

"I have heard."

2 Kings 19:20 (KJV, excerpt)

God sends this assurance through Isaiah in response to Hezekiah's prayer.

[Read the Scripture \(KJV\)](#) | [Full worship recording](#) | [Sermon at 45:00](#)

Prepared from the September 6 worship transcript, focusing on the sermon and Scripture reading from 45:00 to 1:11:31. Times below refer to the full service recording. Biblical names follow the Scripture text.



Detailed Sermon Notes

1. Surrender begins with the person praying

Pastor Hamp teaches that prayer changes our own posture first. Instead of carrying the burden as though the answer depends entirely on us, we learn to depend on God, believe Him, and trust His care. Prayer invites us to surrender the problem and our need to control every outcome.

Recording: 49:25-49:47

3. Join your prayers with obedience

Pastor Hamp urges listeners to examine whether their lives reflect the God they are calling upon. Prayer and daily obedience belong together. Ask God to show you a step of faithfulness you can take while you are also asking Him for help.

Recording: 54:33-54:47

5. Give God honor before making your request

Hezekiah begins by acknowledging who God is. The Lord alone is God over all kingdoms and the Maker of heaven and earth. Pastor Hamp highlights the honor and glory given before the petition. Begin with worship, then speak plainly about what you need.

Recording: 58:09-58:40

7. Trust that God hears

Isaiah carries God's answer: He has heard Hezekiah's prayer. Pastor Hamp then follows the chapter's account of God's protection of Jerusalem. The focus is confidence in God's power and attention, even when the threat seems much larger than the person who is praying.

Recording: 1:00:37-1:00:55; 1:03:49-1:05:42

2. Your background does not have to direct your future

Using Hezekiah's life, the sermon challenges the idea that we must repeat the wrong choices of those before us. The emphasis is on a new direction marked by trust and obedience. A family history or someone else's label does not have to define our response to God.

Recording: 51:47-54:08

4. Spread the burden before the Lord

In 2 Kings 19:14, Hezekiah spreads the threatening letter before the Lord. Pastor Hamp describes this as laying the matter at the altar. Bring God the actual situation that troubles you. You can name it honestly in prayer instead of letting fear keep it circling in your mind.

Recording: 56:31-57:26

6. Recognize the problem and the living God

Hezekiah does not pretend that Assyria is harmless. Other nations have fallen, but their idols were made by human hands. His prayer recognizes the danger while trusting the living God. In verse 19, he asks for rescue so the nations will know the Lord.

Recording: 59:25-1:00:19

8. Keep praying and speak from the heart

The sermon urges perseverance while waiting for God's timing. Pastor Hamp closes by saying that prayer does not require copying a deacon or a mother of the church. Talk to God about what is truly on your heart. Be sincere, keep trusting, and continue your prayer life.

Recording: 1:08:02-1:08:46; 1:10:57-1:11:29



Put the Lesson into Practice

- Write down one burden and bring that specific concern to God in prayer.
- Begin by thanking God for who He is and for a time He has helped you.
- Ask God to reveal one area where your actions need to agree with your prayers.
- Set aside a regular moment to pray this week, even if the situation has not changed.
- Pray in your own words. Be honest about your fear, hope, and need for help.

Prayer

Lord, You are the living God, and we give You honor. We bring You the burdens we have struggled to carry alone. Change our hearts, strengthen our trust, and lead us in obedience. Help us speak honestly, remember Your faithfulness, and continue praying while we wait. Teach us to place our concerns in Your hands. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Personal Reflection

What burden will you bring to God, and how will you practice honest, persistent prayer this week?

[Read the Scripture \(KJV\)](#) | [Full worship recording](#) | [Sermon at 45:00](#)



Sermon Study Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Choose one answer for each question. Use the website to submit your answers and reflection privately to the church.

1. According to Pastor Hamp, what does prayer change first?

- A. The opinions of every person around us
- B. The person who is praying
- C. The words in the threatening letter
- D. The responsibility to obey God

2. What did Hezekiah do with the threatening letter in 2 Kings 19:14?

- A. He hid it from everyone
- B. He sent it back without reading it
- C. He spread it before the Lord
- D. He asked another nation to rewrite it

3. How did Hezekiah begin his prayer?

- A. By acknowledging the Lord as the only God and Creator
- B. By promising to worship the gods of Assyria
- C. By saying the danger was imaginary
- D. By demanding that Isaiah solve the problem

4. Why did Hezekiah ask God to save them in verse 19?

- A. So he could take credit for the victory
- B. So the people could stop depending on God
- C. So Assyria would become their new ruler
- D. So the kingdoms of the earth would know the Lord alone is God

5. How did Pastor Hamp encourage listeners to pray at the close of the sermon?

- A. Wait until they can pray exactly like someone else
- B. Speak honestly to God from the heart and keep praying
- C. Pray once and never mention the need again
- D. Keep every concern hidden from God

6. EXTRA CREDIT - After describing Hezekiah's family background, which encouragement did Pastor Hamp give?

- A. Your past always decides your future.
- B. You must wait for everyone to understand your story.
- C. You don't have to be what you came from.
- D. Change begins when other people change first.