

HEZEKIAH - A CHRISTIAN PATTERN OF INTIMACY WITH GOD

By Seeing Truth Ministries

TEXT: *2Kings. 18:3-6* READ

INTRODUCTION: These words were written over 2,600 years ago, yet they describe not only an Israeli king but devout and dedicated believers that are members of local churches that serve today. This king of Israel and the humble and meek Christians today have the same family likeness on their faces. If I were to sketch king Hezekiah and display his character within the frame of his life, would it be so different than any dedicated believer throughout the ages of time? My thoughts are this, if this king could achieve it among all the ignorance of his day, why should not we, amid our abundance of knowledge, be able to be intimate with God? He accomplished it with the temptations of being a monarch, why should not you or I in our lives of service?

I. HE HAD _____ IN HIS GOD.

This is always our FOUNDATION of faith, trust and service. ***"He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him."** 2Kings 18:5*

King Hezekiah had a certain measure of knowledge about the character of God, and that measure of knowledge led him to lean all his weight upon the Lord.

- CONFIDENCE UNITES US WITH GOD. Whether it is the "trust" of the Old Testament or "faith" of the New Testament, our faith is the life blood of what unites us with our God. That union always was and always will begin with the simple attitude and exercise of trust and everything else will come out of it. Without it nothing else will develop.

- WHAT IS OUR PROBLEM? Translating our knowledge into faith is the only way to develop absolute confidence in Him whose name we know as the "Lord Jesus Christ." CONFIDENCE DOES NOT COME FROM KNOWLEDGE ABOUT GOD BUT FROM A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.
- _____ TO _____ - *"I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily."* 1Cor. 15:31 This confidence in God comes from my old nature dying daily and the new man imitating, fellowshiping and following the Savior in complete obedience. In Proverbs three we can illustrate this pattern of dying to self and living through Christ by not leaning on our own understanding and "getting His understanding. *"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. (vs. 6) In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* Prov. 3:5.6

"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding."
Prov.3:13.

- LIVING BY FAITH AND TRUST. - Hezekiah in all his trials, conflicts and difficulties allowed his faith to work for him by taking _____ to his Father in Heaven. *"He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him."* 2Kings 18:5 This foundation of faith exercised daily by our growing relationship with our God leads us in our divine purpose of how we live and with whom we place our hope: Rom. 15:13 *"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."* Rom. 5:1 *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"*
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- COMPLETE TRUST PRODUCES _____ – *"I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."* Job 42:5,6 Job chapter one declares "God's servant Job" as one who is perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. Yet, it required forty-two chapters of a growing relationship between God and Job till he was placed into a position of humility. Seeing God was "everything" and revealed he was "nothing." Being "helpless" he exercised faith and trust to receive the needed blessings from God to preserve His testimony. Alexander McLeren best pictures true "Confidence in God." *"When the morning dawned, I was a dead man, and faith rejoiced in a perfect deliverance and life everlasting."*

II. **HE CLAVE TO HIS GOD** – Upon the foundation of Hezekiah's FAITH was built the TEMPLE of his life.

2Ki 18:6 For he clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses."

- TWO BECOMING ONE - Remember that sweet picture of the widow woman walking empty from Moab and the two daughters-in-law with her. One went back, not reluctantly, to her home. The other persisting in keeping by Naomi's side, went on in spite of difficulties and objections. With kisses of real love Orpah went back, but she did go back to her people and her gods, but; *Ruth 1:14 "And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her."* So, should we cling to God, as Ruth flung her arms around Naomi, and twined her else lonely and desolate heart about her dear and

only friend? For whose sweet sake she became a willing exile from kindred and country. IS THAT HOW WE CLEAVE TO THE LORD?

- What is more sacred still is the lessons that are suggested by the fact that this is the word employed to describe the blessed and holy union of man and woman in marriage I suppose some allusion to that use of the expression underlies its constant application to the relation of the believing soul to Jehovah. For by trust the soul is wedded to Him, and so 'joined to the Lord' as to be 'one spirit.' *Gen. 2:22-24 " And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."*
- TRANSFORMATION MEANS CONFORMING TO HIS IMAGE. - As a shipwrecked sailor grasps the life raft which keeps his head above water, so a Christian man ought to hold on to God, with all his energy, and with all parts of his new nature. The metaphor implies tenacity; closeness of adhesion, in heart and will, in thought, in desire, and in all the parts of our new nature. Our daily transformation should duct tape us to the very character of our Savior. TRANSFORMATION MEANS TO CONFORM TO HIS IMAGE, HIS PERSONALITY AND HIS PERFECTION. (Notice: The longer duct tape is on the harder it is to get off. The Spirit binds us by our obedience, consistency and spiritual endurance.) Hezekiah was so much like Naomi with an enduring testimony.
- GRACE IS A CONSEQUENCE OF FAITH!
"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." 1Cor. 15:10

III. **HE FOLLOWED CLOSE BEHIND HIS GOD** – Upon the foundation of Hezekiah's FAITH was built the temple of his life. Upon this temple of faith is built this king's FORTRESS that contains both his defensive and offensive characteristics born of the filling of the Spirit of God. *2Ki 18:6 For he clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses."*

- ALWAYS ABLE TO DRAW CLOSER: The metaphor of cleaving implies proximity and union; the metaphor of following implies distance which is being diminished. *Psalms 63:8 "My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me."* To follow HARD means "to cleave, to catch by pursuit, to be glued together.
- ALWAYS ABLE TO ACHIEVE INTIMACY: However, close we may be to God, it is always possible to press closer. However full may be the union, it may always

be made fuller, and the cleaving spirit will always be longing for a closer and more blessed sense of being in touch with God. The proof of a believer's intimacy with God is the constant desire to be ever closer to the Lord, following HARD after Him.

- **ENDLESS FORWARD PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE:** The oldest and most experienced will have the same forward looking glances of hope and forward-directed steps of strenuous effort as the youngest beginner on the path; and a Paul will be able to say when he is 'Paul the aged,' and 'the time of his departure is at hand,' that he 'forgets the things that are behind, and reaches forth unto the things that are before, while he presses towards the mark.' Let us be thankful for the endless progress which is possible to the Christian, *Phil. 3:13,14 "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."*

IV. HE _____ OF HIS GOD – Upon the foundation of

Hezekiah's FAITH was built the temple of his life. Upon this temple of faith is built this king's FORTRESS that contains both his defensive and offensive characteristics born of the filling of the Spirit of God. Covering this house of FAITH and TEMPLE/FORTRESS is the ROOF of OBEDIENCE. A devout life is 'He kept the commandments of the Lord.' That is the outcome of them all. Faith, adhesion, aspiration, and progress, all vindicate their value and reality in the simple way of practical obedience. "*2Ki 18:6 For he clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses.*"

- **BUILDING UPON YOUR FAITH IS WORTHLESS IF YOU ARE NOT _____ TO HIS WILL THROUGH OBEDIENCE.**
- **ALL ATTEMPTS TO BE OBEDIENT TO A DIVINE WILL WHICH DO NOT BEGIN WITH TRUST AND CLEAVING TO HIM ARE IN VAIN OR USELESS.**
- *Phil. 1:27 "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;"*

CONCLUSION: How many professing Christians' lives are half finished and unroofed houses, because they have not 'added to their faith'-that is, to their 'cleaving to the Lord.' Endless aspiration and continual progress is the peaceable fruit of righteousness! If these things be in us and abound, they mark us as devout and spiritual men after God's pattern. And if we want to be devout men after God's pattern, we must follow God's structure, which begins with trust and ends with obedience. *John 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my commandments."*

