

**God's Calling Requirements**  
**Part 16**

*"1 In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the LORD says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover." 2 Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, 3 "Remember, LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. 4 Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the word of the LORD came to him: 5 "Go back and tell Hezekiah, the ruler of my people, 'This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the LORD. 6 I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake and for the sake of my servant David.' " 7 Then Isaiah said, "Prepare a poultice of figs." They did so and applied it to the boil, and he recovered. 8 Hezekiah had asked Isaiah, "What will be the sign that the LORD will heal me and that I will go up to the temple of the LORD on the third day from now?" 9 Isaiah answered, "This is the LORD's sign to you that the LORD will do what he has promised: Shall the shadow go forward ten steps, or shall it go back ten steps?" 10 "It is a simple matter for the shadow to go forward ten steps," said Hezekiah. "Rather, have it go back ten steps." 11 Then the prophet Isaiah called on the LORD, and the LORD made the shadow go back the ten steps it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz." (2Kings 20:1-11)*

King Hezekiah, when he became ill and received the message from the Lord that he will die and not recover through the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz, 2 *Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD,* 3 *"Remember, LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes."* And Hezekiah wept bitterly. Hezekiah told the Lord in his prayer, *"Remember, LORD, how I have walked before you ..."* King Hezekiah had the courage to say that to God because he had done a lot of good and marvelous things for the Lord. As you read **2Kings 18:1-7** you will grasp all the good things that Hezekiah did for the Lord and that you can reflect on yourself as God called you to serve Him:

*"1 In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Hezekiah son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. 2 He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah. 3 He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. 4 He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan. ) 5 Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. 6 He held fast to the LORD and did not stop following him; he kept the commands the LORD had given Moses. 7 And the LORD was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him." (2Kings 18:1-7)*

1- *He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord:* Is to do what God wants you to do and achieve for him.

- 2- *He removed the high places:* These places were not ordained by God for worship. To stop getting involved of activities, parties and programs which are externally religious but in reality they are not representing God's will or God's way for worship.
- 3- *Smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles.* He removed different kinds of idols. To get rid of things that had replaced God in your life, like laziness, love of money, watching TV, playing video games, traditional practices, worldliness, etc. *"5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry." (Colossians 3:5) "3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7 Therefore do not be partners with them." (Ephesians 5:3-7)*
- 4- *He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan.):* The meaning of Nehushtan is unclean, bronze and common. Is to clean your life from unclean and unholy things. There are things people consider them holy but when you go to the word of God they are unclean. *"He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight." (Luke 16:15)*
- 5- *He rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him:* To move toward trusting God and neither to be loyal to neither people nor trusting that they will help you. But rather start to serve the Lord wholeheartedly and trust Him that He will help you in times of need. *"5 This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD. 6 That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. 7 "But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. 8 They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." (Jeremiah 17:5-8)*

Hezekiah when he got sick and prayed, mentioning all his labor for the Lord's Kingdom, he was heard by God and the Lord truly granted his request and he was healed and fifteen years was added to his life.

Later on the following events happened in Hezekiah life after he was healed:

*"12 At that time Marduk-Baladan son of Baladan king of Babylon sent Hezekiah letters and a gift, because he had heard of Hezekiah's illness. 13 Hezekiah received the envoys and showed them all that was in his storehouses—the silver, the gold, the spices and the fine olive oil—his armory and everything found among his treasures. There was nothing in his palace or in all his kingdom that Hezekiah did not show them. 14 Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah and asked, "What did those men say, and where did they come*

from?" "From a distant land," Hezekiah replied. "They came from Babylon." 15 The prophet asked, "What did they see in your palace?" "They saw everything in my palace," Hezekiah said. "There is nothing among my treasures that I did not show them." 16 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD: 17 The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your predecessors have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the LORD. 18 And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood who will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon." 19 "The word of the LORD you have spoken is good," Hezekiah replied. For he thought, "Will there not be peace and security in my lifetime?" 20 As for the other events of Hezekiah's reign, all his achievements and how he made the pool and the tunnel by which he brought water into the city, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? 21 Hezekiah rested with his ancestors. And Manasseh his son succeeded him as king." (2Kings 20:12-21)

As you had read the above events you might ask, what are the grave things that Hezekiah did that made Isaiah rebuked him and telling him grave things to happen to him as you can read here: "17 The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your predecessors have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the LORD. 18 And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood who will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon." (2Kings 20:17-18)

According to the history, at the time of Hezekiah reign, the Babylonian were subdued and under the Assyrians, and at the time that the Lord wrought great victory over the Assyrians army when he sent His angel; "35 That night the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies! 36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there. 37 One day, while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisrok, his sons Adrammelek and Sharezer killed him with the sword, and they escaped to the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son succeeded him as king." (2Kings 19:35-37) The victory that God gave to Hezekiah the captain of his people over the Assyrians, that victory gave a relief to the Babylonians. Therefore they came to Hezekiah in order to be friend to him as they have seen that he got a big victory over their enemies. The shortcoming of Hezekiah, that he behaves in a boastful way and went ahead and showed them everything. He did not treat them as a nation that he can subdue for the Lord, but he treated them as people who are stronger and more honorable than he. He was deceived with the letters and the gift that they brought to Him. As well as, he boasted as if his own strength achieved that victory. He knew his behavior carried out of pride and is unpleasant to the Lord, therefore he hide the visit of the Babylonians and did not inform Isaiah about it, because he knew that Isaiah will prohibit him from doing what he did. The openness of Hezekiah to such kind of people and receiving gift and letters from them and making of them equal friends brought Isaiah to pronounce that curse on him. The purpose of Isaiah in pronouncing that curse is to warn him and to explain to him that the sinful act that he did will bring bad effects and consequences. The Lord's message to him through Isaiah the purpose of it is to make him realize his mistakes and finally to bring him to repentance. But Hezekiah did not repent. He took the rebuke of Isaiah with pride and answered him indifferently, "19 Then said Hezekiah unto Isaiah, Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. And he said, Is it not good, if peace and truth be in my days?" (2Kings 20:19 KJV)

Now, you may ask this question, 'It is not a big mistake what Hezekiah did, as well as Hezekiah has done lot of things to the Lord, then why Isaiah was so judgmental to deal with him?' Ezekiel 18:24-26 can be a good answer to your question: "24 "But if a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits sin and does the same detestable things the wicked man does, will he live? None of the righteous things he has done will be remembered. Because of the unfaithfulness he is guilty of and because of the sins he has committed, he will die. 25 "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? 26 If a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits sin, he will die for it; because of the sin he had committed he will die." (Ezekiel 18:24-26) Hezekiah did a wicked thing and that need to be corrected. It has to be made right, before the Lord will forgive and reconcile. Pride was Hezekiah wickedness and that what made him show disrespect to the rebuke of the prophet Isaiah in the way he answered him. Hezekiah needed to repent before he can be restored, "27 But if a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he will save his life." (Ezekiel 18:27)

**My dear and beloved:** The process of salvation is our journey to heaven. When you sin then you need to repent in order for you to be restored. To be restored is to be back to the point that you fail God in His calling to you. Whatever great things that you had done in the past, that will not cover the sin that you had recently committed. Therefore humble down, put pride away, confess your sin and renounce your shortcoming so that you will be restored back to the good plan that God has in calling you to serve Him as you agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your clear word to me. Lord now I understand that I cannot boast of the good things that I did in the past, rather I need to repent from this sin \_\_\_\_\_ that I recently did. Lord forgives me and restores me back so I can continue to serve you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

# Jesus christ



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