**You Will Restore Me And Make Me Live**

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***“In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, ‘Thus says the Lord: set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.’ Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord, and said, ‘Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal and good heart, and have done what is good in Your sight.’ And Hezekiah wept bitterly. And the word of the Lord came to Isaiah saying, ‘Go and tell Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years...”***  **Isaiah 38:1-5**

This is an amazing ancient story of one of the last kings of Judah, King Hezekiah. This was the time when God spoke directly to men, often through prophets. Isaiah had terrible news for the king: You’re going to die very soon; you’ve basically got “two minutes”! As you can see, the king was devastated and, turning humbly to the Lord, asked Him to relent from the verdict of death. Here are a couple of important things we can reap in principle from these verses from Isaiah.

Hezekiah was living a life that yielded effective prayer towards God. This is what we should strive for as Christians. James tells us in **James 5:16**, ***“... The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”*** Peter said in **1 Peter 3:12**, ***“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”*** Whether it be those ancient days or today, if we want our Creator to hear and then, rally to the cause of our prayers, we need to be living a life where we can claim, ***“I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal and good heart, and have done what is good in Your sight.”*** We need to be Christians and then, really living the lifestyle of a Christian!

God’s response was remarkable! God will relent! Hezekiah will have 15 more years added to his life and if we keep reading, there were other blessings coming too, including deliverance from Assyria, protecting the city of Jerusalem. Brethren, God isn’t speaking to us through prophets like Isaiah, but that doesn’t mean He doesn’t care for us. Don’t be afraid to pray and be specific like Hezekiah was! If you keep reading in Isaiah 38, Hezekiah writes a letter with thanksgiving and praise to God. He said in **Isaiah 38:16-17**, ***“O Lord, by these things men live; and in all these things is the life of my spirit; so You will restore me and make me live. Indeed it was for my own peace that I have great bitterness; but You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption, for You have cast all my sins behind your back.”***

God continues to bless men with forgiveness and restoration. We may not get 15 more years, but we can find eternity with Him in His grand home that Jesus said is Paradise. God will... make us live!