

Kings & Kingdoms #8
The Pitfall of Overconfidence

Word

Scripture Reference

2 Chronicles 32

Discussion Questions

1. What have you been overconfident about in the past that has caused you to fail?
2. King Hezekiah had led the nation of Judah to undergo spiritual reformation. Read 2 Chronicles 32. At this time of spiritual revival, Sennacherib, king of Assyria came with an intent to conquer Jerusalem (v. 1). Have you ever experienced being tested after you had been spiritually revived? Why would testing come in spite of your being fervent in your faith? Do you trust in your circumstances instead of trusting in God who controls circumstances?
3. Reading verses 2-12, we see that Hezekiah's confidence is in the Lord. After consulting with his leaders, King Hezekiah strengthened himself, fortified the city, appointed military officers over the people, assembled and encouraged them. What did Hezekiah say to encourage his people (v. 7-8)? What effect did Hezekiah's words have on them? Just like the Judeans, we should also be confident in the Lord because of who He is and what He is able to do. Share how God has encouraged you these past few days. What effect did it have on you?
4. Sennacherib, king of Assyria, was an overly confident leader. Men and women like him become over-confident because of three things:
 - a. **Because of their past achievements and past actions (v. 13).** What past achievements have made Sennacherib too confident? Share how you have relied on the Lord when you were just starting out in your business/work or studies. Discuss how experiences make a person overly confident at the expense of their trust in God.
 - b. **Because of wrong placement of trust (v. 14-15).** Sennacherib trusted only in himself, his military, and his false gods. He definitely did not trust in the true God and soon had to bear the

consequence. What are the usual objects of trust when a person is overconfident? Why does being overconfident keep you from trusting God? What does John 15:5 remind you about the importance of remaining in God regardless of the level of your confidence?

- c. **When you are not scared or intimidated by God (v. 16-19).** Sennacherib obviously was not afraid of the God of the Israelites, the One True God. In fact, he even ridiculed God. We become overconfident when we are not scared of God. The fear of God is lost in this generation. Discuss when fear of God is a good and helpful fear. Share what happens when you fear or respect God for who He is and what He can do. On the other hand, what would happen if you do not fear and trust God?
5. Describe how King Sennacherib's life ended as a result of his overconfidence (v. 20-21)? What can you learn from his experience?
6. Hezekiah went through pride and overconfidence as well. How did He differ from Sennacherib (v. 24-33)? How did Hezekiah finish well? What can you emulate from him?

Walk

*"My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand."*

How do you react to success? Does it make you so overly confident that you forget to trust God? Would you keep your feet on the ground by acknowledging that without God, you are heading to the pitfall of overconfidence?

Worship & Prayer

Father God, in Jesus Christ I've experienced great blessings I have never before known--the blessing of forgiveness, mercy, grace, love, hope. In abundance You have showered me with material possessions and success. But because of my sinful heart I forget that it's all from You, and all for You. Forgive me for the times I think I can do things on my own, for the times I grow so confident in my own abilities, forgetting that it is You, Lord, who provided and enabled. I pray that if there is anything, Lord that may take my trust away from You alone, please do not allow me to have it. Make me like Hezekiah and David, who despite falling into over-confidence humbled themselves and acknowledged Your power. May I always walk humbly, act justly, and love mercy, and may my life proclaim of confidence in the God who is able. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.