

# Faith and Folly

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Isaiah 36-39.

B. Hezekiah faces three attacks on his faith that are representative of the trials we face.

## II. The armed attack of the nation of Assyria.

A. Judah's weakness is pointed out by Assyria.

B. Assyria claims the Lord's attack against Judah.

C. Assyria is a symbol of the anger and violence of the world against faith.

D. Hezekiah responds in humility and looks to God for help as we are supposed to do.

1. We are to humble ourselves when we see this kind of threat.

2. We must look for an answer from the Word. (Isaiah 37:5)

E. God's answer was not to be afraid—it was God's battle.

1. God does not want His people to live in fear.

2. God has given believers the power of a sound mind.

F. God promised to keep Judah safe, and He did so by sending an angel of the Lord to slay all the Assyrian men.

## III. The time of serious illness.

A. Hezekiah fell into illness that left him in despair.

B. God gave him a reprieve though in his illness.

C. God was willing to adjust the forces of nature to encourage a believer's faith.

## IV. The time of flattery and attention from the ambassadors at Babylon.

A. Hezekiah showed all his treasures to his enemy Babylon foolishly.

B. Prosperity is a greater threat than adversity to the spiritual life.

## Application questions:

1. How is the believer to respond to spiritual attack when it may be the result of his own personal failure?

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2. What does God teach us about His care for believers in their illness? Does He always respond in this way?

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3. Why might it be difficult for some to believe that faith can be threatened in prosperity? How can one guard against this?

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