

An Extraordinary God... Does Extraordinary Work

# The Ordinary Church

Through Ordinary People, Doing Ordinary Things,

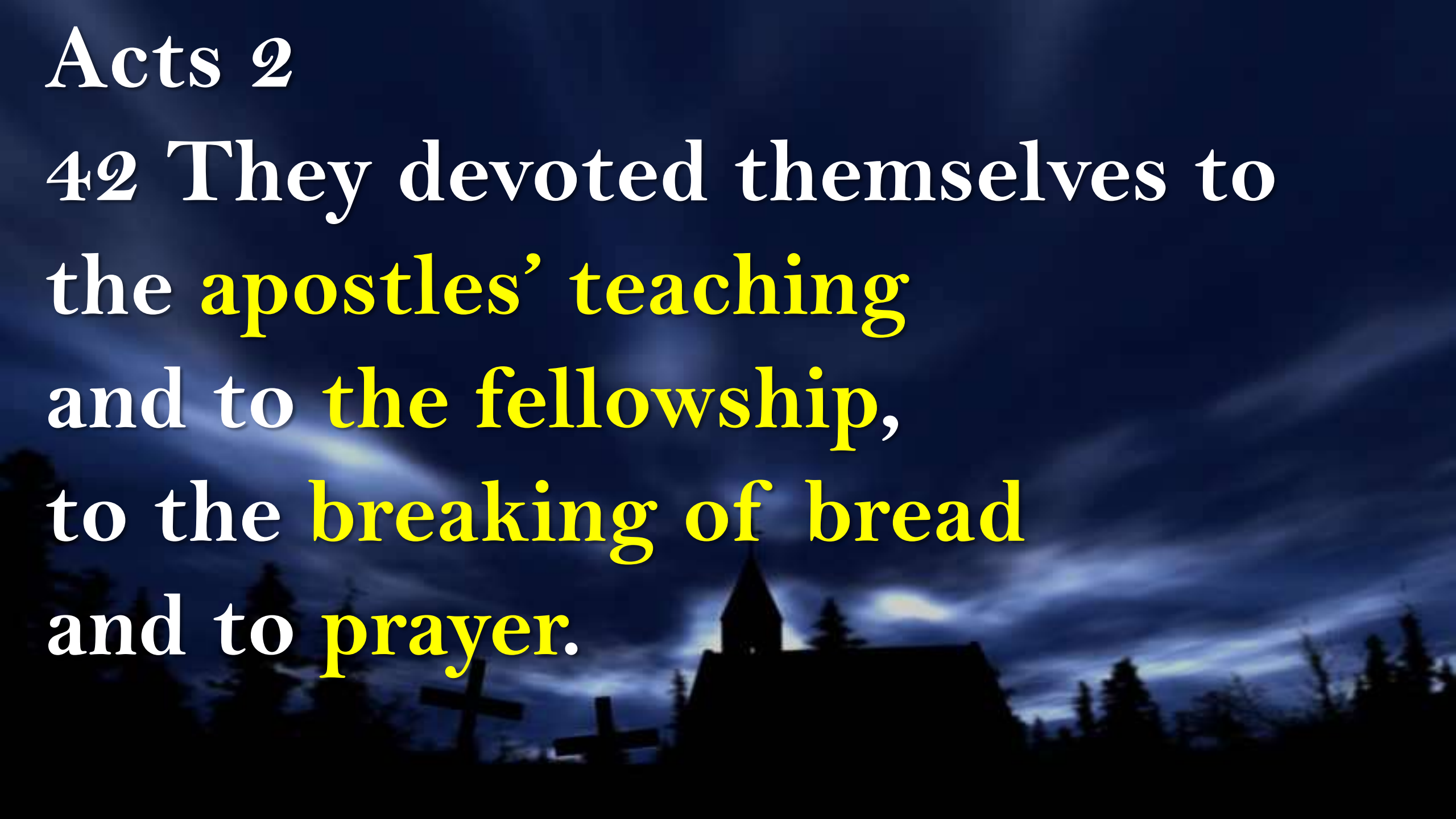


# Acts 2

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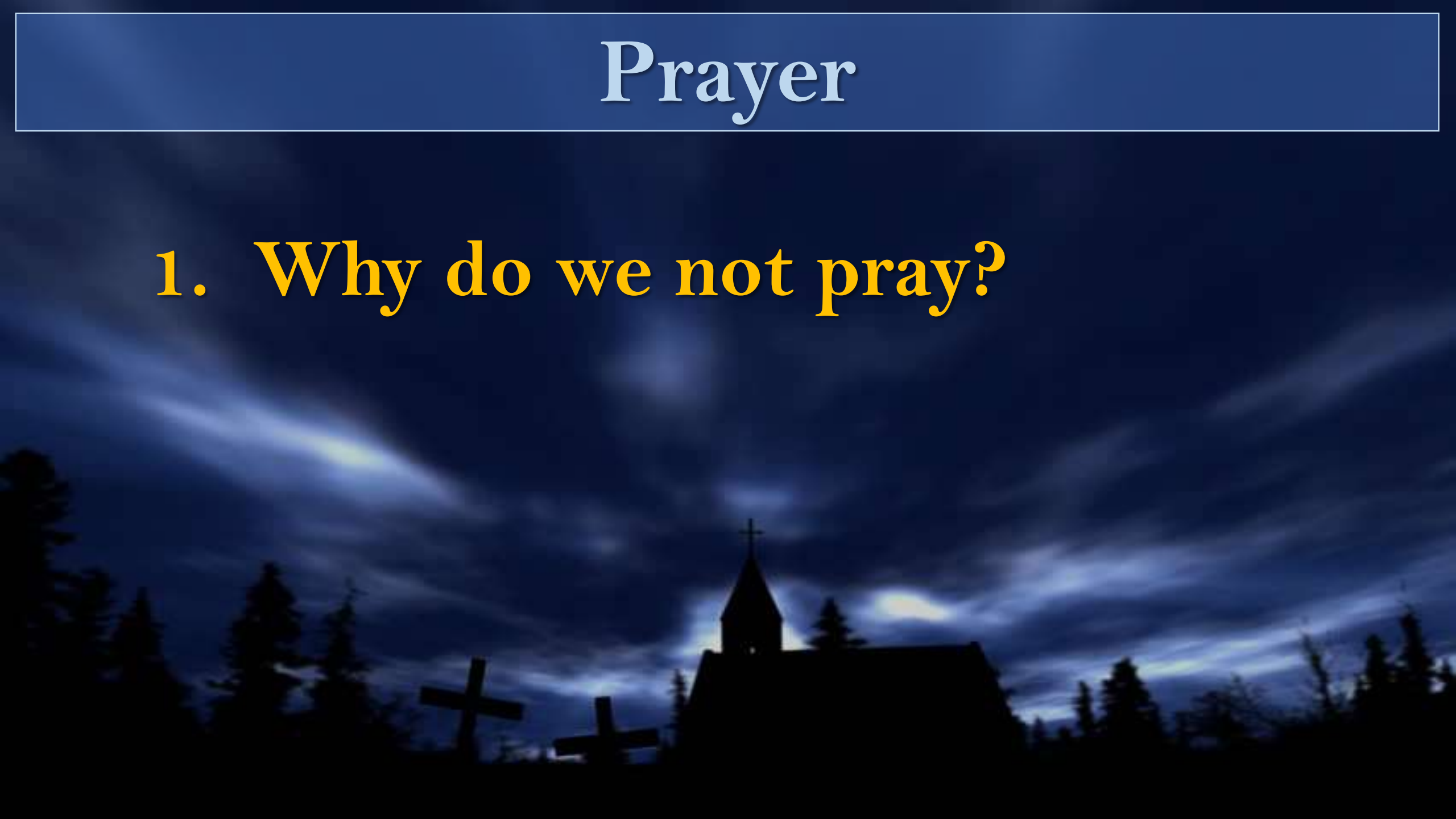


# Prayer

1. Why do we not pray?
2. Why pray?
3. How should we pray?

# Prayer

1. Why do we not pray?



## Isaiah 36

1 In the fourteenth year of Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked and captured all the fortified cities of Judah.

## 2 Chronicles 32

6 Hezekiah appointed military commanders over the people and gathered the people in the square of the city gate.

Then he encouraged them, saying,

7 “Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged before the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater One with us than with him.

8 With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles.”

So the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.



## Isaiah 36

1 In the fourteenth year of Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked and captured all the fortified cities of Judah.

2 And the king of Assyria sent the Rabshakeh, with a great army, from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem.

And he stopped by the aqueduct of the upper pool, on the road to the Launderer's Field.

## Isaiah 36

3 Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah the palace administrator, Shebna the scribe, and Joah son of Asaph the recorder, went out to him.

4 The Rabshakeh said to them, “Tell Hezekiah that this is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says:

What is the basis of this confidence of yours?

5 You claim to have a strategy and strength for war, but these are empty words. In whom are you now trusting, that you have rebelled against me?

## Isaiah 36

8 Now, therefore, make a bargain with my master, the king of Assyria. I will give you two thousand horses—if you can put riders on them!

9 For how can you repel a single officer among the least of my master's servants when you depend on Egypt for chariots and horsemen?

10 So now, was it apart from the LORD that I have come up against this land to destroy it?

The LORD Himself said to me, 'Go up against this land and destroy it.'"

## Isaiah 36

11 Then Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah said to the Rabshakeh, “Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, since we understand it.

Do not speak to us in Hebrew in the hearing of the people on the wall.”

12 But the Rabshakeh replied, “Has my master sent me to speak these words only to you and your master, and not to the men sitting on the wall, who are destined with you to eat their own dung and drink their own urine?”

## Isaiah 36

13 Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out loudly in Hebrew: “Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria!

14 This is what the king says: Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he cannot deliver you.

15 Do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the LORD when he says, ‘The LORD will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.’

## Isaiah 36

16 Do not listen to Hezekiah, for this is what the king of Assyria says:

Make peace with me and come out to me.

Then every one of you will eat from his own vine and his own fig tree, and drink water from his own cistern,

17 until I come and take you away to a land like your own—a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards.

## Isaiah 36

18 Do not let Hezekiah mislead you when he says, 'The LORD will deliver us.'

Has the god of any nation ever delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria?

19 Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they delivered Samaria from my hand?

20 Who among all the gods of these lands has delivered his land from my hand? How then can the LORD deliver Jerusalem from my hand?"

## Isaiah 36

**21** But the people remained silent and did not answer a word, for Hezekiah had commanded, “Do not answer him.”

**22** Then Hilkiah’s son Eliakim the palace administrator, Shebna the scribe, and Asaph’s son Joah the recorder came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn, and they relayed to him the words of the Rabshakeh.



## Isaiah 37

**1** On hearing this report, King Hezekiah tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, and entered the house of the LORD.

**2** And he sent Eliakim the palace administrator, Shebna the scribe, and the leading priests, all wearing sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz **3** to tell him, “This is what Hezekiah says:

Today is a day of distress, rebuke, and disgrace; for children have come to the point of birth, but there is no strength to deliver them.

## Isaiah 37

4 Perhaps the LORD your God will hear the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to defy the living God, and He will rebuke him for the words that the LORD your God has heard.

Therefore lift up a prayer for the remnant that still survives.”

## Isaiah 37

5 So the servants of King Hezekiah went to  
Isaiah, 6 who replied,

“Tell your master that this is what the LORD says:

‘Do not be afraid of the words you have heard,  
with which the servants of the king of Assyria  
have blasphemed Me.

7 Behold, I will put a spirit in him so that he will  
hear a rumor and return to his own land, where I  
will cause him to fall by the sword.’”

## Proverbs 21

1 The king's heart is a waterway in the hand of the LORD;

He directs it where He pleases.

## Isaiah 37

8 When the Rabshakeh heard that the king of Assyria had left Lachish, he withdrew and found the king fighting against Libnah.

9 Now Sennacherib had been warned about Tirhakah king of Cush: “He has set out to fight against you.”

On hearing this, Sennacherib sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying, 10“Give this message to Hezekiah king of Judah:

‘Do not let your God, in whom you trust, deceive you by saying that Jerusalem will not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.

## Isaiah 37

11 Surely you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the other countries, devoting them to destruction. Will you then be spared?

12 Did the gods of the nations destroyed by my fathers rescue those nations?

—the gods of Gozan, Haran, and Rezeph, and of the people of Eden in Telassar?

13 Where are the kings of Hamath, Arpad, Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah?””

## Isaiah 37

14 So Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers, read it, and went up to the house of the LORD and spread it out before the LORD.

15 And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD:

16“O LORD of Hosts, God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, You alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You made the heavens and the earth.

17 Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see.

## Isaiah 37

17 Listen to all the words that Sennacherib has sent to defy the living God.

18 Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all these countries and their lands.

19 They have cast their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they were not gods, but only wood and stone—the work of human hands.

20 And now, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone, O LORD, are God.”



## Isaiah 37

21 Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah:

“This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says:

Because you have prayed to Me concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria, 22 this is the word that the LORD has spoken against him:

## Isaiah 37

**26** Have you not heard? Long ago I ordained it; in days of old I planned it. Now I have brought it to pass,

that you should crush fortified cities into piles of rubble.

**27** Therefore their inhabitants, devoid of power, are dismayed and ashamed.

They are like plants in the field, tender green shoots, grass on the rooftops, scorched before it is grown.

## Isaiah 37

28 But I know your sitting down, your going out and coming in, and your raging against Me.

29 Because your rage and arrogance against Me have reached My ears,

I will put My hook in your nose and My bit in your mouth;

I will send you back the way you came.'

## Isaiah 37

33 So this is what the LORD says about the king of Assyria:

‘He will not enter this city or shoot an arrow into it. He will not come before it with a shield or build up a siege ramp against it.

34 He will go back the way he came, and he will not enter this city,’ declares the LORD.

35 ‘I will defend this city and save it for My own sake and for the sake of My servant David.’”

## Isaiah 37

**36** Then the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 men in the camp of the Assyrians.

When the people got up the next morning, there were all the dead bodies!

**37** So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there.

**38** One day, while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer put him to the sword and escaped to the land of Ararat.

# Prayer

Why do we not pray?

## 1. We are not dependent on God

- Dependent people pray
- We are unaware of our intense, daily need for God to work on our behalf

## Romans 9

16 So then, it does not depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

## John 15

5 I am the vine and you are the branches.

The one who remains in Me, and I in him, will bear much fruit.

For apart from Me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers. Such branches are gathered up, thrown into the fire, and burned.

7 If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.



# Prayer

## Why do we not pray?

### 1. We are not dependent on God

- Dependent people pray
- We are unaware of our intense, daily need for God to work on our behalf
- In our thinking, we must separate our “doing” from our “relying”

## Psalm 44

**1 We have heard with our ears, O God; our fathers have told us**

**the work You did in their days, in the days of old.**

**2 With Your hand You drove out the nations and planted our fathers there;**

**You crushed the peoples and cast them out.**

**3 For it was not by their sword that they took the land; their arm did not bring them victory.**

**It was by Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your face, because You favored them.**

## Psalm 44

4 You are my King, O God, who ordains victories for Jacob.

5 Through You we repel our foes;  
through Your name we trample our enemies.

6 For I do not trust in my bow,  
nor does my sword save me.

7 For You save us from our enemies;  
You put those who hate us to shame.

8 In God we have boasted all day long,  
and Your name we will praise forever.

# Prayer

Why do we not pray?

**2. We don't really believe it will make a difference**



Isaiah 14:24 The LORD of Hosts has sworn:

“Surely, as I have planned, so will it be;

as I have purposed, so will it stand.

25 I will break Assyria in My land;

I will trample him on My mountain.

His yoke will be taken off My people,

and his burden removed from their shoulders.”

26 This is the plan devised for the whole earth,

and this is the hand stretched out over all the nations.

27 The LORD of Hosts has purposed,

and who can thwart Him?

# Prayer

## Why do we not pray?

### 2. We don't really believe it will make a difference

"Prayer is a mighty instrument, not for getting man's will done in heaven, but for getting God's will done on earth" – Robert Law

"Our great hope in prayer, therefore, is not to change what God has planned, but to bring about what God has planned."

# Prayer

## Why do we not pray?

### 2. We don't really believe it will make a difference

- If our prayers bring about God's plan, do we believe that God has a plan today?
- We should assume that God wants to bring about His will through the prayers of His people

# Ephesians 1

11 In Him we were also chosen as God's own, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything by the counsel of His will,

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in your knowledge of Him.



# Prayer

Why do we not pray?

**3. It is self-denying, flesh-defying  
hard work**

**- Devoted people pray**



## Colossians 4

12 Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you greetings.

He is always wrestling in prayer for you, so that you may stand mature and fully assured in the full will of God.

13 For I testify about him that he goes to great pains for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.

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