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Facing A New Year
2 Chronicles 32 (1-8)
January 1, 2017

The Lord has allowed us to take a few steps into a brand new year. It is a blessing that the Lord has sustained and maintained us while there are those who have gone on to be with the Lord, and yet, we are still here.

There is much to be in prayer about as we enter this year; the incoming president, health care, and the uncertainty of healing the division in our country. Positively, we face the lowest unemployment that we've experienced in nine years, we have a new dialogue in race relations and young people who believe they can make a difference in the world.

The text for today has the same situation; a young group of people who feel their lives would be in jeopardy. King Hezekiah's righteous deeds during his reign made ready the temple so that it would be ready for worship since its extended time of inactivity. Once the temple was cleansed and purified, King Hezekiah offered animals of sacrifice while the people praised God with the words of the Psalms.

King Hezekiah said he would not sacrifice anything to the Lord that cost him nothing. After all the sacred words and the deeds of faithfulness took place, a powerful and war hungry king by the name of Sennacherib came knocking at their gates.

Doing the Lord's will is no guarantee that the enemy will not show up on your doorstep. In fact, when you are being troubled by the devil, it's a good indication that you are about to do something great for the Lord.

How to face a new year,

1. Prepare Yourself

King Hezekiah realized that the King Sennacherib of Assyria was seeking to take over the city of Jerusalem. Hezekiah had the water supply stopped to make it possible for the people of Jerusalem to be safe. He repairs all parts of the city to prepare himself to do battle against Sennacherib.

As we face the New Year, we must prepare ourselves knowing the devil will show up. Hezekiah did not pick the fight, but he did everything possible to be prepared for the fight. We too, must prepare ourselves to defend ourselves against the attacks of the enemy. We must put on the whole armor of God that we are able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

1. You've Got To Encourage Yourself

Hezekiah and his people are facing a daunting task and the king of Assyria is preparing to overtake the city of Jerusalem. But then, Hezekiah realized that he had

a supernatural weapon and ally. He realized that although the king of Assyria was powerful, he had the Lord on his side, giving him a distinct advantage.

Sometimes we need to take our eyes off of what can be seen, and place them on the unseen things that can overpower and overcome anything that can be seen. We must take time to empower ourselves. Sometimes you've got to talk, encourage, and remind yourself that you have supernatural power working on your behalf.

1. Still Yourself

Sometimes you've got to wait on the Lord. Hezekiah did not move prematurely, he did not go on the attack, rather he decided to wait for the attack and wait for the Lord to show up and defend him. The king of Assyria made a fatal mistake when he misunderstood the power of the Lord to protect the Lord's people.

Sometimes you've got to have enough faith to still yourself and allow the Lord to fight your battles. When you are still and quiet, the Lord is able to handle your light work. The Lord will take care of you.