

Fighting Words

Isaiah 37:1-20

1. Words that _____ the Living God (v. 1-7)
 - a. _____ of a Penitent King
 - b. _____ of a Penitent King
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
 - c. _____ of a Penitent King
 - d. _____ of the Living God
2. Words that _____ the Living God (v. 8-13)
 - a. Despite the LORD's _____
 - b. Dismissing the LORD's _____
 - c. Denying the LORD's _____ divinity
3. Words that _____ the Living God (v. 14-20)
 - a. Publishing the _____
 - b. Praying with _____
 - i. To the _____ God
 - ii. To the _____ God
 - iii. To the _____ God
 - iv. To the _____ God
 - v. To the _____ God
 - c. Proclaiming the _____
 - i. Of Sennacherib's _____
 - ii. Of Sennacherib's _____
 - iii. Of Faith's _____

“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...”

(Matthew 6:33a)

The Crazyiness of Faith

“Why is [this story in Isaiah 37] in the Bible? Why is this in the permanent record of God’s Word? Because unbelief sneers at faith in God, we still lose our nerve, and God is still there to deliver us if we’ll get real with him. He only wants us to trust him with a daring faith.

“If no one ever thinks we’re crazy for the way we stick our necks out in trusting the promises of God, are we really living by faith? If no one ever asks us to explain the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15), is our hope any different from their hope? Is our Christianity so audacious that it requires nothing less than a religious conversion to enter in? One reason we see so few conversions today is that our Christianity isn’t an alternative to convert *to*. It’s padded, safe, predictable worldliness with occasional stop-offs at church. We think it’s God’ job to ensure our undisturbed routines. God thinks it’s our job to prove how real he is in the real world today.

“We are often weak. But to get fresh courage, we don’t have to look inside ourselves and ask, ‘How much faith do I have?’ We should look to God and ask, ‘What new step of audacious obedience do you want me to take right now? How can my life be a prophetic statement to my generation that you are a reliable Savior, as you’ve promised?’ Thinking in terms of *God first*, we will find new courage.

“A passage like this raises searching questions. For example, do our committees and boards at church make decisions by a bold faith? In our homes, do we raise our children to live with boldness? Personally, when was the last time you made a major decision that was so clearly of God and so clearly not of yourself that your conclusion actually surprised you? Are we shocking anybody by our faith? If God were to show us in one instant the full meaning of living by faith, we might all gasp and say, ‘Nobody can live that way, not in this world.’”

(Isaiah: *God Saves Sinners* by Raymond C. Ortlund, Jr., Crossway 2005, p. 210-211)