

Life's Greatest Hour! (Isaiah 6:1-8)

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A little boy excitedly told his mom that he had just measured himself and he was six feet tall! Mom was a little skeptical, so she asked him to measure himself again while she watched. She discovered the problem when the boy took out a 6-inch ruler instead of a 12-inch ruler. He had calculated well: he was six-ruler-heights tall – he just had the wrong ruler, the wrong standard. We are living during times when Christians have the wrong standard of measurement. Instead of measuring their lives by the standard of God's holiness, they are measuring themselves according to cultural standards out of fear that they might become a misfit Christian that is not up to date with the modern and postmodern culture. In this study, we want to measure ourselves by the right standard which is the holiness of God. For some of us the holiness of God is one of those uncomfortable attributes of God that we do not reflect upon because it can remind us how much we are unlike God.

Let's start with a definition. The Hebrew word for holiness means something or someone that is set apart, consecrated to sacredness, that which is hallowed and utterly separated from all evil and possessing moral perfection. The holiness of God is His intrinsic purity, the standard of righteousness to which the whole universe must be conformed to. God's holiness unlocks the door to understanding and making sense out of everything else about Him. Holiness is the crowning attribute of God for if God is not holy, then the other parts of His nature and character will be flawed (God's love, mercy, grace, compassion). All of God's character and nature stems from His holiness. Holiness is the starting and ending point of God's being. When we desire to live a holy life, it means that we are ready to conform to God's character. God has called us to align our lives to His holiness.

Sam Jones was a preacher who held revival services, which he called "quittin' meetings." His preaching was directed primarily to Christians, and he urged them to give up the sinful practices in their lives. Sam's messages were very effective, and many people promised to quit swearing, drinking, smoking, lying, gossiping, running from God and stop doing anything else that was displeasing to the Lord.

On one occasion Jones asked a woman, "Just what is it that you're quittin'?" She replied, "I'm guilty of NOT doing anything--and I'm going to quit doing nothing and start doing something!" Even though she had no bad habits to give up like smoking and drinking, she wasn't actively living to please God and serving Him faithfully, so she was going to quit her bad habit of not actively serving the Lord and being faithful to Him.

I believe there are some reading this study who need to do some quitting! You might need to get rid of some bad habits and bad attitudes that you have been holding on to for a long time. You might need to stop living a spiritually lazy and lethargic Christian life. God knows who you are and what you need to do. You cannot hide from God! But how is God going to change you and redirect your life? What must happen to you or take place in your own personal life for God to get a hold of your heart once again and begin to do something with your life that will count for eternity? The answer is very simple. You must experience Life's greatest hour!

This is the theme of our study. It's the time when we bow the knee to God's holiness and decide to change our lives and live for Him in a new way. The holy man is not one who cannot sin. A holy man is one who will not sin. This is because he has been touched by God's holiness and wants to conform his life to God's holy standard.

Jerry Bridges said:

"It is time for us Christians, to face up to our responsibility for holiness. Too often we say we are 'defeated' by this or that sin. No, we are not defeated; we are simply disobedient. It might be well if we stopped using the terms victory and defeat to describe our progress in holiness. Rather we should use the terms obedience and disobedience."

Isaiah experienced life's greatest hour when he was given a vision of God's holiness and purity.

Isaiah 6:1-8 reveals the hour that changed Isaiah's life forever: "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train (*long flowing garment*) filled the temple (*heavenly temple*). Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and

with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe *is* me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, *which* he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid *it* upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.”



Life's greatest hour occurs when we experience a new awareness of God's holiness. It's a time when we have a new vision and awareness of God's holy presence in our life. It's a time when God stirs our hearts afresh and anew because of who He is! It's a time when all things on earth stand still and we only see God in all His holy wonder and greatness. It's a time when we fall before His holy presence so stirred and stunned by His purity that we can do nothing else but give ourselves fully to Him and His purpose for our lives. This is why Isaiah responded to God's holiness by saying, "Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips" (Isa. 6:5) and "Here am I; send me" (Isa. 6:8).

As a result of the revelation of God's holiness, Isaiah recognized his own sinfulness before God and in a fresh and new way presented Himself to God as a purged, holy, and living sacrifice.

Isaiah's experience with God's holiness is similar to what Paul wrote about in Romans 12:1-2: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God (*in view of the mercies of God*), that ye present (*dedicate*) your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable (*rational*) service (*worship*). And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Like Isaiah's vision and response to God, when we get serious about changing our lives there is dedication ("present"), separation ("be no conformed") and transformation ("be transformed") that must take place in our hearts and lives. We dedicate ourselves to God which becomes evident when we separate from sin and worldliness, which results in experiencing transformation in our lives for His honor and glory.

This is life's greatest hour, and this is what Isaiah experienced when he saw the Lord! As Christians, there are times in our lives when we too must pass through life's greatest hour! Our prayer should be that God might do something in our hearts like He did in Isaiah's heart centuries ago. This is not pop-psychology! This is not self-esteem theology. It is a new awareness of God! God's holiness must stir our hearts again, God must strike a chord in our hearts once again as we experience a fresh awareness of His holy presence!

We must rekindle the flame in our hearts, possessing the desire to live a dedicated and holy life before God. if we are ever going to amount to anything for Him. The answer to life's problems is God! The answer to a fresh start in life is seeing God in all His holiness and saying yes to His will, being obedient to His way for our lives. God wants to get a hold of our hearts again and awaken us to His awesome holiness. God wants to do something in your inner being as we respond to His holiness and redirection for our lives.

Let's state it simply. We need God to stir our hearts once again! We must let go and let God redirect our lives in a new and fresh way as we see Him in all His holiness! This is life's greatest hour! Life's greatest hour is when we see God in all His holy splendor and bow the knee before His will for our lives. It's when we become awestruck at God's holiness and surrender our life to Him and His holy pathway for our lives.

Dr. Scofield calls it: "Isaiah's transforming vision."

What transforms our life? Seeing God and experience His holy and awesome presence in our lives. Life's greatest hour occurs when we allow God to break through our hardened hearts of sin and spiritual callousness and change us. This is what occurred in Isaiah's life one day when God gave him a vision of His immeasurable holiness. Life's greatest hour occurs when we have a fresh glimpse of His holiness, when we see God in His purity and respond in absolute surrender and commitment to do what is right.

Some of you may need to start a new journey today. It's a journey in life that submits to God's holiness and righteous purpose for your life. When we understand about Heaven's holy God and Isaiah's response to this holiness, as recorded in Isaiah 6:1-8, we will apply God's holiness to our own personal lives. Holiness is a command to be obeyed, a course to be followed, and a commitment to be kept.

Why do we develop bad attitudes as Christians? Why do we become cold and calloused, unstable, and unusable in God's work? Why do we drag our feet? Why don't we have a deep interest in happily doing things for the Lord? Why do we backslide and get ourselves into a spiritual rut? Why don't we serve the Lord and why don't we attend church regularly and set the example for our children? Why don't we change our bad sinful habits? Why are we disobedient to what we know God wants us to do?

The whole reason that we find ourselves being disobedient and drifting and not doing what God wants us to do is because we are no longer seeing a fresh vision of God. We are no longer allowing God and the grandeur and greatness of His holiness to stir our hearts as He once did. We have lost sight of God's holiness,

majesty, and glory. We no longer possess a reverent fear of God and bow to His authority over our lives.

- Have you been responding to God's holiness or running from God's holiness?
- Are you walking in the light or running from the light?
- Have you become insensitive to God's character?
- Are you ready to make some changes?
- In what ways can God's holiness impact your life?

Our greatest hour in life is when we possess a new revelation of God's holiness.

This what happened in Isaiah's life and what needs to occur in our lives if we want to change the course and direction of our lives and glorify God with our actions and decisions.

There are 3 events that occur in our lives when we experience God's holiness.

I. We have a new awareness of God's purity or holiness.

Isaiah 6:1-4

"In the year that king Uzziah died (Uzziah died in 740 B.C. and was one of Judah's greatest leaders) I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train (flowing garment) filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims (unique angelic beings designed to guard and glorify the holiness of God): each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke."

Today we need possess a new vision of God's holiness and hear His call to live a holy and consecrated life for Him.

"I saw the Lord sitting upon his throne." This means God is not dead! King Uzziah was dead, but the King of Heaven and all the universe was still alive!

“High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven’s joys, O bright Heav’n’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.”

“I saw the Lord sitting upon his throne.” Isaiah was not only given an outward vision of God but an inward vision of God holiness as He sat upon His heavenly throne. This means that we must LOOK UPWARD and have a fresh revelation of God’s holiness as He sits upon His throne in Heaven!

The old saying is true:

“When the outlook is bleak, try the uplook!”

For young Isaiah, the outlook was bleak. His beloved king had died, his nation was in peril, Assyria was growing in power, and he could do very little about it. The outlook may have been bleak, but the uplook was glorious! God was still on the throne and reigning as the Sovereign King of the universe!

Although King Uzziah was dead the God of Heaven was alive and well! We must remember this when things get bad, when we experience hard times. God is still on the throne! He is in charge of everything, and we can submit to His will and find grace and help in the time of need!

Like Isaiah, the revelation of God’s holiness in our hearts should cause us to change our life, conform our will to His will, and live for Him completely and unreservedly. Isaiah saw the LORD of eternity (the eternal God) who lives outside the realm of time as we know it. He saw the awesome and majestic God, the only true God and Creator of the universe. Isaiah saw God in a holy way, and it was this view of God that changed his life forever.

It was life’s greatest hour for him! When Isaiah saw the LORD a new awareness of the holiness of God overcame him. Today we must once again see God in His absolute purity and holiness so that His holy character can strike a chord in our hearts and redirect our lives. What we need today is a fresh vision and awareness of God’s impeccability and holiness. This will have a great spiritual impact upon our lives and change the course of our lives as we reshape our thoughts, desires, and direction in life to God’s holiness.

We need to take a trip to Heaven today that will change our lives and make us different. The actions within Heaven reveal how we should live and react to God's holiness.

- God's holiness is revealed to us.

Isaiah 6:1

"In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord (*Adonai – the masculine noun used exclusively of God, which speaks of Him as being the sovereign master of the universe*) sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple."

David Guzik remarks:

"The prophet Michaiah saw God's throne (1 Kings 22:19), Job saw God's throne (Job 26:9), David saw God's throne (Psalm 9:4 and 7, 11:4), the Sons of Korah saw God's throne (Psalm 45:6, 47:8), Ethan the Ezrahite saw God's throne (Psalm 89:14), Jeremiah saw God's throne (Lamentations 5:19), Ezekiel saw God's throne (Ezekiel 1:26, 10:1), Daniel saw God's throne (Daniel 7:9), and the Apostle John saw God's throne (Revelation 4:1–11). In fact, the book of Revelation may as well be called 'the book of God's throne, because God's throne is specifically mentioned more than 35 times in that book!'"

The bottom line of atheism is that they believe there is no throne; there is no seat of authority or power in all the universe that man must answer to. The bottom line of humanism is that there is a throne—but man sits upon it. By this verse and others, we come to the conclusion there is a throne in Heaven, and the LORD God sits upon it as the sovereign ruler of the universe! This is central fact of Heaven. God does not sit on a chair in Heaven. Anyone might sit on a chair. But sovereign kings sit on thrones. Judges sit on thrones. Those with proper authority and sovereignty sit on thrones.

In this verse, God's holiness was visually revealed to Isaiah, but it was much deeper than this. Isaiah experienced an inward revelation of God's holy character and being. Verse one reads, "I saw the Lord." Again, the name "Adonai" is a proper name for God that speaks of Him being the sovereign Master of the

universe, the One who is “high and lifted up” and exalted in His glory upon the throne of Heaven.

I was in a store called the Sharp Shopper and a woman was talking to her husband (I said a woman – not a lady) for she was damning God to hell while talking to her husband and daughter. Man curses and damns God to hell in his vulgar speech but Heaven lifts Him up to the highest point possible in the existence of the universe!

Was this vision a theophany of God the Father or a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ (God’s Son) in all His glorious splendor?

In John 12:41 the apostle John records:

“These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.”

John was speaking concerning the Son of God or Jesus Christ (the second person of the Trinity) when he said these words. John wrote that this glory Isaiah saw was Jesus’ glory. The implication is startling: Jesus is Yahweh of the Old Testament revelation! Isaiah saw Jesus, Who is Jehovah of the OT. (John 8:58). Jesus is God who sits on the majestic throne of Heaven coequally sharing God’s existence with the Father (John 10:30; 20:28; Col. 2:9). Jesus Christ is the revelation of God’s eternal being and existence. He’s the “Word” or logos (John 1:1), the revelation of God to mankind who literally “declared” or exegeted (John 1:18) God to mankind, bringing God’s eternal character, existence, and being out into the open. John wrote that this glory Isaiah saw was Jesus’ glory!

This tells me that what Isaiah saw was no doubt a stunning pre-incarnate vision of Jesus Christ sitting on the throne. It was actually a Christophany that Isaiah witnessed in life’s greatest hour, and which changed His life forever.

Isaiah wrote, “I saw the Lord.” A literal vision of God was very rare. This was true in both Old and New Testaments. Isaiah was a prophet that was privileged to see a literal vision of God, but this is something that we cannot expect to see in our own personal lives today. Why? It’s because God is no longer revealing Himself in visions and dreams. The purpose for dreams and visions no longer exists which was to reveal truth prior to the Bible’s completeness and confirm truth to His Jewish people.

1 Corinthians 13:10

“But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.”

In other words, don't expect God to visibly display Himself on your back porch while you are sitting there on your rocking chair drinking a Dr. Pepper.

A man once said that he had a vision of Jesus Christ. He was sitting on his chair watching a TV show. He said that Jesus came down through the roof and walked around the TV set and then said something to Him. After this Jesus went back up through the roof and his vision was all over.

He then told the audience that he just kept on watching his TV show after Jesus left him. Now, let me say two things about this. First, this man is a liar. Second, no man would act untouched and unphased as this man was if he were in the holy and glorified presence of Jesus Christ. He would fall on his face prostrate in front of the presence of God almighty! He would become as a dead man!

In Revelation 1:17 we read of John's experience when He saw Christ:

“And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last.”

Like John, Isaiah was stunned and changed forever when he saw this vision of God (the glorified Jesus Christ on the throne), when he experienced in his own heart the revelation of God's purity and holiness. We must see or experience a fresh vision of God's holiness again! We must see God as the eternal God who is absolutely pure and awesomely majestic who sits on His throne in Heaven. When we see God in this way, we will surrender our lives to Him and start acting in a holy way. We will align our living with God's holiness. Our lives cannot be the same when we have a fresh glimpse and grasp of the holiness of God.

Our problem today is that we no longer see God in all of His moral perfection, His purity and holiness, and we no longer allow God's holiness to grab hold of our hearts and conform our lives to His character. We must have a fresh glimpse and vision of God's holiness today and when we do, we will think differently, live differently, and worship differently (with new zeal and purity). It will change our

lives today and forever. After all, this is life's greatest hour! It is the time when we bow the knee to God's purity once again and His right to rule our lives.

The point of Isaiah 6:1 is simple. Seeing a fresh vision of God changes our lives. When it says that Isaiah "saw the LORD" he viewed God with his physical eyes. But it was much more than this. Isaiah was also moved in his inner heart as he contemplated how holy God was in His eternal being. The text in Isaiah 6 will reveal this to us. I want you to understand that Isaiah experienced something more than just an outward vision of God. He had an inward vision of God. This is what we need today if we are going to allow God to work in our hearts and do something wonderful and life-transforming!

Have you ever seen something that was totally awesome and left you stunned and bewildered? Some of you have seen the Grand Canyon and have been touched by its majestic scenery. I had the privilege of seeing the Grand Canyon. It was an awesome experience. Others of you have seen the power, felt the mist, and heard the roar of Niagara Falls. That too is an amazing experience to pass through. Isaiah passed through an amazing revelation of God who manifested Himself in His eternal being and character of holiness within the throne of Heaven.

You know, spiritually speaking, each one of us should spend more time in the throne room of God. In fact, the writer of Hebrews said, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

It's within the throne room we not only find help in a time of need, but we should also receive a fresh inward vision of God's presence and purity. Beloved, we need an inward vision of God's holy character to grab hold of our hearts, shake us up, and move us out in service once again. Isaiah came to know and understand in his own inner being and heart just how holy, awesome, righteous, and glorious God was in His eternal being and existence. We need to have the same inward vision of God that we need to have today in our present lives. We need to see God in all of His holiness, majesty, glory and greatness so that we will develop a healthy fear and reverence for His presence that will change our lives and cause us to serve Him with all of our hearts!

- God's holiness requires reverence and obedience.

Isaiah 6:2

“Above it stood the seraphims (fiery or burning angels): each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face (indicating reverence for God – the King of Heaven), and with twain he covered his feet (indicating unworthiness to stand in God’s presence), and with twain he did fly” (indicating readiness to serve and obey God).

We not only need to see God's holiness; we must experience it in our daily lives. The symbolic actions of the angelic beings called Seraphim remind us that we must react to God's holiness and allow it to change the course and direction of our lives. The “seraphims” were responding or reacting to God's holiness in a reverential manner. They were situated above the majestic throne of God in Heaven. These unique angels apparently have a special emphasis in declaring the holiness of God. They may actually sing about God's holiness and lead Heaven in worship which centers on God's character of holiness. The theme of Heaven's worship revolves around God's purity. All of Heaven extols and praises God for His absolute holiness and impeccable purity.

What do we learn about God's holiness from this heavenly scene?

1. We understand its unique with God.

The Bible says that the angel covered his face with his wings (“with two he covered his face”) This speaks of reverencing God's unique and intrinsic holiness above all other beings, since we, like the angels, were created by Him. The respectful act of covering their face reveals that these angels did not consider themselves to be a rival to God and His impeccable holiness. They certainly were not in the same class with God! The covering of their face was demonstrating a deep and profound respect or reverence for God and His unique holiness and majesty as He sits alone upon the throne in Heaven.

Holiness is something the Church has lost sight of with its rock and roll music and irreverence that it displays in the local churches. The Church is no longer covering her face in the sight of God's matchless and untainted purity. They would rather

have a party when going to church instead of covering their faces in humility and demonstrating reverence toward God.

The angels shielding themselves from the holiness and divine glory of God signifies that God in His unique holiness has no rival. He is the only sovereign and holy God of the universe whose holiness must be vindicated and defended at all cost. There is no greater, there is no other true and holy God. He is it! So, honor Him.

Isaiah 45:5

“I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me.”

America wants us to believe in the false gods of pluralism and syncretism today such Buddhism, Shintoism, Confucianism, and Islamism. However, God and His holiness is unique. God is the only true God that is absolutely pure, flawless, and impeccable in His nature and being. When we understand about the uniqueness of God and His holiness, we allow Him to change our actions, attitudes, and aspirations in life. We will want to mold our life and character to God’s purity. We will want to honor God with all of our heart and actions.

1 Peter 1:15-16 commands:

“But as he which hath called you is holy (*the call to holiness*), so be ye holy (*the command for holiness*) in all manner of conversation (*the course of holiness*); Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (*the character of God’s holiness*).

The New Testament word for holiness (*hagios*) means something sacred, set apart for God, reverent, morally pure and upright. Holiness is God’s divine attribute. He is absolutely flawless. The seraphim were expressing reverence toward a holy God that is infinitely holy. The same should be true in our daily living and worship. When we express reverence and respect for God and His holiness we will stop sinning against Him, stop making lame excuses for not serving God, and start living for Him. We will see our sin as disgusting in His holy presence and repudiate it and forsake it. In short, we reverence God and His holiness when we understand how unique and awesomely wonderful He is in His character. God is holy and will not compromise with evil and neither should we if we reverence

God and want to glorify Him through representing His holiness in our daily conduct and choices that we make in life.

1 Corinthians 10:31

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

The glory of God refers to the manifestation of any or all of His attributes through our living and actions. In other words, glorifying God is the displaying of God to the world. Glorifying God is to properly represent God’s character and ways. His supreme attribute of holiness falls under the category of God’s glory. We should stop fooling ourselves. If we are not reverencing God and demonstrating respect for His holiness in our lives, then we cannot be glorifying God.

Have you been moving in a wrong direction? Have you been compromising Christian virtues? Have you lost your sense of reverence toward God? Instead of compromising with sin we should cover our face again and express reverence toward God and His unique holiness. As we do this, we will kick sin out of our life and become committed to holiness.

2. We express unworthiness and reverence before God.

The Bible goes on to say, “with two he covered his feet.” This speaks of unworthiness to stand in God’s holy presence. This is a very respectful attitude toward God. When people address God as “the man upstairs” and refer to him as their “buddy” or “copilot” they do not have any sense of reverence for God’s presence and holiness. If we would see Him today who possesses a “high and lifted up position,” we would be delivered from low living and the irreverence that we have toward Jesus.

This reverent action of the angels (covering the feet) once again signifies that they were unworthy to stand in His presence, since He is the eternal and holy Creator of everything that exists in the universe – including themselves. They realize that if it were not for God creating them and blessing them, they would not be in existence. They would never be in Heaven and be able to worship Him. In a similar way, when we realize who God is and what He has done for us, we too will express our own unworthiness to stand in His holy and awesome presence.

I was talking to a bitter man after I performed a funeral for one of his relatives. He said, "How could a loving God allow all of this suffering and death." He then said, "It's selfish for God to want all the glory." I reminded him immediately that if it were not for God he would not have never been born. He would not be able to have one breath of life. Instead of expressing bitterness to God, we should cover our feet and remember that if it were not for God, we would never exist, we would never have opportunity to be born, we would never be able to have life, be saved, and someday enjoy His presence in Heaven.

We need a fresh vision of God's holiness again!

In Exodus 3:5 we read of Moses' encounter with God's presence:

"And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy ground."

Moses was commanded to remove his shoes when he stood in the presence of God for the place upon which he was standing was holy ground. It was ground reserved for a holy God! Reverence toward God's holiness produces a sense of unworthiness! But it is unworthiness that results in profound respectful praise to our Creator God.

"Holy, holy, holy
Lord, God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons blessed Trinity."

3. We demonstrate unrelenting service to God.

The Bible also states: "with two he did fly." This speaks of unrelenting commitment and service to God which is born out of deep reverence and respect for God and His ways. The angels were flying out from the throne room in obedience to God's commands.

- Have you taken off to do God's bidding?
- Have you been following God's will for your life?

- Is there some area you have not yielded to God?
- Are you willing and ready to do what God says?

These angels are performing service for the holy God of Heaven. The holiness of God sparked obedience and service. God’s holiness always motivates us to live and serve Him – do His bidding. It acts as a motivating force to honor and glorify Him with our lives. We must react to the holiness of God in reverence and service. In order for God’s holiness to change us, we must see God for who He is and bow before His holy presence in reverence and obedience to His ways. Reverence toward God’s holiness produces service and commitment to God. In life’s greatest hour, we will reverence God’s holiness again. We will bow the knee to Him and place our lives under the rule and reign of God’s holiness.

4. We worship with overwhelming devotion toward God.

Isaiah 6:3

“And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory.”

Everything in Heaven revolves around God’s holiness. But even in the earth the glory of God can be witnessed (“the whole earth is full of his glory”).

Numbers 14:21

“But *as* truly *as* I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.”

This means that even on earth God’s glory can be witnessed in creation and in His providence and movement among the earth, and His work through the lives of God’s saints. We are often blind to the obvious glory of God all around us. God’s glory can be seen even on earth, but in Heaven it is the central focus.

Now we look at what the angels were singing about as they revered and worshipped God in Heaven. “Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts” (Yahweh of the armies). The “hosts” speaks of the mass of angelic beings within the realm of Heaven. They are the angelic armies of Heaven. While this statement by the seraphim is not a clear doctrinal statement, it may be concluded that the three-time reference to God’s holiness represents the Trinity of God’s existence. The thrice-repeated reference to God’s holiness is unusual and must have a special

emphasis on God's existence as One God in Three Persons. The Bible teaches the Trinitarian oneness of God's existence.

Dr. William Pettingill used to say:

"One and three and three in one – and the one in the middle died for me!"

You can be sure that these words "holy, holy, holy" were not accompanied with rock band synthesizers, rock beats, and carnal expressions found in much of the Church music that is being played today. Yes, I'm making a war with all forms of rock music (unchristian and so-called Christian Rock Music) because it is the sound of rebellion against a holy God. It was created for this reason – to promote sex, drugs, lies, and rebellion. This type of music can never be mixed with the holiness of God since God's holiness cannot be reflected in any sounds or words that were created to fuel rebellion. People will tell you, "God accepts me just the way I am, gay or straight." No, God's holiness forbids him to accept sin in His presence.

R.C. Sproul commented on the thrice repeated statement of the word holy:

"Only once in sacred Scripture is an attribute of God elevated to the third degree. Only once is a characteristic of God mentioned three times in succession. The Bible says that God is holy, holy, holy. Not that He is merely holy, or even holy, holy. He is holy, holy, holy. The Bible never says that God is love, love, love; or mercy, mercy, mercy; or wrath, wrath, wrath; or justice, justice, justice. It does say that he is holy, holy, holy, that the whole earth is full of His glory."

This once again means that holiness is the crowing attribute of God's existence and being.

Isaiah 6:4

"And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. "

This verse tells us that in response to the announcement of the holiness of God, the posts of the heavenly temples door moved (shook) and the entire heavenly temple was filled with smoke. The entire foundation was shaking, and smoke was filling the temple. Smoke and fire have always a sign of God's presence. In Genesis 15:17 we read of the confirmation of the Abrahamic Covenant, and it says God

manifested His presence in a burning and smoking manner: “behold a smoking furnace (fire pot) and a burning lamp passed between those pieces.”

1 Kings 8:10-11 says:

“And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.”

A similar scene is given in Revelation 15:8

“And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.”

Dear friend, God’s holiness shakes things up, including ourselves, it creates fire, and in the midst of all of this fire and smoke, we can be sure that God wants us to respond to Him! When we have a new awareness of God’s holiness, we will allow this amazing inward revelation to capture our hearts like never before. We will sense the shaking that comes from His inward conviction, and sense the smoke of His divine presence, and know that we can never be the same again! This is life’s greatest hour! We cannot walk away from such a revelation of God’s holiness without transformation. “Holy, Holy, Holy!”

There's a story that's told many times about former President Calvin Coolidge, who was a man of few words. He went to church and his wife stayed home. He came home. His wife said, "Well, did you go to church?" He said, "Yes." She said, "Did the preacher preach?" "Yes." "What did he preach about?" "Sin." "Well, what did he say?" "He was against it." The same is true about God. God is against sin because He is holy. The heavenly vision of the holy God on His throne produced deep conviction of sin in the prophet Isaiah. It then brought him to the place of confession as we will see later in our study.

Isaiah said, “I saw the Lord!” (Isa. 6:1). What we need today is a fresh glimpse and vision of God in all of holiness and splendor. We need God to become real to our lives again! We need a fresh vision of His holy character to come sweeping across our hearts and lives. And when we experience the same inward vision or revelation that Isaiah experienced, we also will pass through the greatest hour of

our lives – having an awesome awareness of God’s holiness, repent of known sin, and follow the will of Jesus Christ for our lives.

What would you consider to be your greatest hour? What event took place in your life that you consider to be the most important event? Perhaps it was your marriage, receiving your college degree, advancing into the job position that you always wanted? Many times what we think our life’s greatest hour might be is not what God thinks our greatest hour in life should be. Life’s greatest hour does not take place when we graduate from high school or college or when we are married. Life’s greatest hour does not take place when we succeed in a business or reach the top of the corporate ladder. Life’s greatest hour does not take place when we see that first baby come forth from the womb of our wife.

Life’s greatest hour occurs when we have an inward revelation and vision of God in our hearts. It’s when we sense how holy and majestic God is and respond to His holy character in transcendent wonder, healthy fear and committed service. Nothing can take the place of the touch and stirring of God in the soul and the sense that Someone is there who we are accountable to, who cares for us, and who wants us to please Him with our lives.

Christian friend, this may be the greatest hour of your life! This is not some kind of fanatical and sensational conclusion. It’s not some kind of Info commercial telling you that you can lose 20 pounds in just one week. I’m telling you what the Bible says. Today may be life’s greatest hour for you. Isaiah experienced it and so can we today! And it will be greater than any other hour that you have ever experienced. Do you know why? It’s because you can receive a fresh understanding and revelation of God’s holy character in your heart and life and allow God to stir (rekindle) your heart as He stirred the heart of Isaiah.

“I saw the Lord!” (Isa. 6:1). Isaiah saw the LORD in all of His glorious holiness and wonder! May it be true in your life today! May you allow the greatness of God’s character to be revealed to your own heart through the ministry of God’s Spirit. This can be life’s greatest hour for you if you allow God’s holiness to break through and grab hold of your heart again. It will be life’s greatest hour when you let go and let God’s holiness take control of your life and stir your heart so that you might be respectful, obedient, and go on and serve the Lord with great zeal.

A. W. Tozer remarked:

“The man who has met God is not looking for something—he has found it; he is not searching for light—upon him the Light has already shined.”

Isaiah saw the LORD! When we see the Lord we will possess a new awareness of God’s holiness (the light shines upon us) like never before and we become so overwhelmed with His holy presence that our lives are never really the same again.

Frederick William Faber wrote:

“How dread are thine eternal years,
O everlasting Lord!
By prostrate spirits day and night
Incessantly adored!
How beautiful, how beautiful
The sight of thee must be,
Thine endless wisdom, boundless power,
And awful purity!”

1 Thessalonians 4:7

“For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.”

Our greatest hour in life is when we have a fresh inward vision of God’s holiness. It’s when the holiness of God breaks through our stubbornness, irreverence, and we come out on the other side like Isaiah did – profoundly different.

No person can see Isaiah’s God and purposely live in an irreverent way again! But we must be very careful about something. We can learn to live with that which is unholy and come to look upon it as the natural and expected thing.

Someone said:

“Almost any behavior or practice begins to look and sound normal if you are exposed to enough of it.”

But when we see the same God Isaiah saw, we will fall before Him and confess our irreverence, unholiness, and align our lives with Him. What we need today is a new holy passion, a holy pursuit in life, and a holy basis for everything that we do.

We need to experience a new vision of God and align our lives to His character and ways.

Is there a hole in your holiness? Is there a dark spot in your life? Has your worship become unholy? If so, you need to experience a revival of holiness in your life again. We don't need a new style of worship, we don't need a new approach to living the Christian life, we don't need all the bells and whistles of compromised Christianity. What we need is a fresh glimpse of the holiness of God to stir our souls again and set us on the right path. For when God's holiness grips our soul, then we will experience life's greatest hour as Isaiah did.

In the Gettysburg Address (1863), Abraham Lincoln declared the Civil War battlefield in Pennsylvania to be "hallowed ground." Because of the momentous events that took place in Gettysburg, Cemetery Ridge and Little Round Top would be forever set apart, no longer ordinary or common places, but ones with special significance consecrated for special commemoration. The battlefield at Gettysburg would be holy ground, a place set apart. When someone or something is holy it is set apart. It is sacred and consecrated for God's purposes and His glory.

We have been studying about God's holiness and possessing a fresh vision, a new awareness of God's holiness, with the result that we might cleanse ourselves and set ourselves apart for God's holy purposes. Isaiah had a vision of God in his absolute purity, and it became life's greatest hour for him. This is because the vision of a holy God changed his life forever. It brought cleansing into his life and newfound obedience.

II. We sense a need to repent and find pardon before God's presence (vv. 5-7).

This means that we must LOOK INWARD and see the sinfulness, wickedness, wretchedness, and disobedience in our hearts and lives!

Isaiah 6:5

"Then said I, *Woe is me!* for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."



After seeing the vision of God in His holiness, Isaiah saw himself as unholy, unclean, and unfit to be in God's presence. He realized that his own life did not align with God's purity, and he was in need of cleansing.

John Phillips

"When we lose sight of God's holiness, a holiness calculated to strike awe into every heart, we lose our sense of the seriousness of sin."

This is very true. When we lose our sense of how holy God is we also lose our sense how sinful we are when compared to His pristine purity. When we see a fresh vision of God's holiness our reaction should be to repent of all our sins and rebellion against God. Mine eyes have seen the king! Isaiah realized, there is no other king! He knew that Jesus was the king of kings and that he had to bow in repentance before Him. People say to Christians, "You had better get help." Well, that may be true, but first you had better repent of your terrible and wicked sins! As Christians, we need to do business with God!

- a. The need for repentance.
 1. The revelation of our sin requires repentance.

Repentance is when we see our own wretchedness before God and are willing to get right before God through confession of sin. This is expressed in Isaiah's words, "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips" (Isa. 6:5).

Harry Ironside rightly observes that:

"The effect of beholding GOD is to make one realize his own unworthiness and the corruption of his own heart."

Isaiah saw himself in the light of the Lord's holiness and this caused him to repent of his sinful rebellion in his life. He realized that he needed to get things right before God.

When Simon said, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man. O Lord" (Luke 5:8) he was saying that the presence of Jesus showed Him what kind of man he really was – a sinner! Abraham (Gen. 18:27), Jacob (32:10), Job (Job 40:1–5), David (2 Sam. 7:18), Paul (1 Tim. 1:15), and Peter (Luke 5:8–11) all humbled themselves before God as sinners and only afterward did God use them.

Isaiah said, "woe is me, for I am a man undone; because I am a man of unclean lips." This is true repentance! But why does Isaiah say that his lips are unclean? Why not his heart? It may be that the lips are being referred to as the evidence of what is really in the heart. In other words, it's his heart that is unclean. James refers to the "tongue" in this way (James 3:9–12) and Jesus also refers to the "mouth" as confirming what is really in the heart ("out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" - Matt. 12:34; 15:18).

"Woe is me" is not a "feel good" religion. This is not a self-esteem message. This is not the message that states: "I'm not so bad as other people."

Someone hit the nail on the head when they said:

"We need to realize that we are not 'basically nice folks with an unfortunate tendency to mess up.' We are proud, arrogant, self-centered, perverse, cruel, violent rebels in whom the stain of sin and sinfulness goes down to the last atom in the last molecule. We do not just 'mess up.' We 'sin.'"

Isaiah 6:7 speaks about our waywardness before God by using two words: “iniquity” (to be bent, twisted, warped) and “sin” (missing the mark or way). Folks there is an inner twistedness in all of us that we must see and root out of our hearts and lives. The expression “woe is me” is a lamentation over one’s sins. It means that you know the finger of God is pointing at you because of your sin and that you are a sinner that has offended God’s holiness. As a result, you have no other way out but repentance.

Vance Havner made this comment:

“We are trying to get young people to volunteer and say, ‘Here am I,’ before they have ever said, ‘Woe is me!’”

This does not work! You cannot truly serve God if you are not willing to repent of your known sins. We must be right before God before we can really be used by God. God demands old fashioned repentance and contrition over our sins.

I believe that we need a strong dose of Isaiah 6 to counter the “self-esteem theology” and “prosperity gospel” of these days. Isaiah’s word “undone” (Isa. 6:5) has the basic meaning of being “cut off.” This means that Isaiah sensed that he was “unclean” and that his sin cuts him off from God’s holy presence, fellowship, and favor. He realized that impurity couldn’t be accepted before the holy God of the universe. The truth of the matter is this; God never accepts sin! His holiness cannot condone sin. Isaiah discovered that the holiness of God drives the skeletons out of the closet. It reveals our sins and need for repentance.

I think the pragmatic worldly church of today needs to hear this! God does not accept sin! God is so holy (absolutely flawless) and for this reason no sin could ever be acceptable to Him. In fact, sin separates God from His people. Sin breaks fellowship between God and His people.

Isaiah 59:2 says:

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

In life’s greatest hour we will have a fresh inward vision of God’s holiness and presence and we will at once again sense our own sin and unworthiness in light of His resplendent holiness. We will identify our sin and repent. We will call sin for

what it is - wretchedness and wickedness in the sight of a holy God. In these verses we see how God's holiness demands a response from our lives! God's holiness demands that we face our sins and see them for what they are – a stench in the nostrils of a holy God! We can't fellowship in God's holy presence without responding to His holiness. God requires a repentant response to His holy character! Such was the case with Isaiah.

Repentance means that we take sides with God! We are broken and crushed over our sins for we see them as totally evil in the sight of God's holiness. When we are truly repentant we will want to be freed from our sins and desire a new way of living. Repentance is a heart response to God's holiness.

Repentance is essentially a change of mind and heart about our sins. When we repent, we see our sin differently for we sense how dreadfully horrible our sins are in the sight of a holy God and we fall before the Lord in the dust of our own human existence and say as Isaiah said, "Woe is me! For I am undone, I am a man of unclean lips."

Have you seen your flaws in the light of God's holiness? Have you faced your laziness, sinfulness, and poor excuses? In life's greatest hour you will stop trying to cover up your sin! You will be honest before God and allow God to turn you inside out and drive the sin out of your life. You will admit that you have been trying to hide sin in your heart and life thinking that the King will somehow miss it. But He did not overlook your sin. He is the King, and He is holy! We must come to the place where we will say: "Lord, I've done wrong, I'm not doing right, and I repent of my sin before Your holy presence. I am a horrible sinner in your sight. Oh holy, holy, holy Lord God of heaven - forgive me as I turn back to You and rededicate my life to You." Now this is repentance!

A great preacher of yesteryears once said:

"Some things are not debatable; there is no other side to them. There is only God's side."

When we see God's holiness this will be true. Repentance begins with "I saw the Lord" (vs. 1) and ends with "Woe is me" (vs. 5). We will come to our end and exclaim: "Oh God, I've sinned. I'm not where I should be. I am a sinful man but I'm

going to make it right with You God. I want to align my life with your splendor, majesty, and holiness.”

2. The revelation of our sin results in God’s rule over our lives.

Repentance is when we take sides with the King and allow Him to rule in our hearts and lives again! Isaiah said, “mine eyes have seen the king” (Isa. 6:5). Isaiah adds that this pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ on the throne reveal that He is “the LORD (Yahweh) of hosts” (Isa. 6:5, 3) which together means that He is the king or ruler of all the angelic hosts of Heaven.

But Isaiah was making this revelation of the high King of Heaven personal in his own heart and life. To Isaiah and us today, it means that when we realize that Jesus is the King, we sense that He needs to be our personal King and ruler over our own lives. When our spiritual eyes capture the revelation and wonder of the King’s holiness we cannot be the same and go on living in our sinful rebellion against Him. When we see King Jesus, we will hate our sin and at once abandon it in light of His holiness, submitting to the King’s rule over our life.

Isaiah possessed a new awareness of God’s holy presence as the eternal King of the ages who wants to rule our lives and this revelation stabbed at his heart, stunned him, and stirred Him to the place of repentance. This means he took sides with God, got rid of the sin and disobedience in his life, and allowed the King to reign in his life again. The question I ask you today is this: Is Jesus king of your life today? Will you allow His holiness to capture or captivate your heart so that you will repent of any known sin and crown Him king of your own life?

“King of my life I crown Thee now,
Thine will the glory be.”

Repentance over our sins can only take place when we see the King in all of His matchless holiness. Mine eyes have seen the King! We need to see Jesus as the King who should rule our hearts and lives before we speak those unkind words. We need to see the King before we commit some carnal sins, before we rebel against God, before we attend an unholy place, or before we make a wrong decision.

1 John 1:7 parallels to Isaiah's response: (TURN)

"But if we walk in the light (*the light of God's holiness*), as he is in the light (*dwelling in radiating holiness*), we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Beloved, we need to walk in the light of the King's holiness and allow Him to rule our hearts and lives. Walking in the light of God's holiness means we will respect, reverence, and honor His holiness in our everyday lives and decisions that we make. When I see the King Jesus in all His holiness, I will repent over my sinful attitudes toward others, the worldly and carnal things that I have been listening to, the pornography I have been viewing, my disobedience to His clear commands, or any unholy thing that is separating me from God's fellowship.

1 John 1:7 says that we are to walk in the light instead of running from the light. Bugs living under a rock run from the light when the rock is lifted. Have you been like these bugs? Have you been running away from the light of the King's holiness? If we are truly repentant, we will want to walk in the light of the King's holiness and surrender to the King's ways over our life. We will want to change our life and conform our lives to the King's standard instead of our own. When Isaiah saw the Lord he knew that he had no choice but to walk in the light of the holiness of the King.

"This is the King's command: that all men, ev'rywhere,
Repent and turn away from sin's seductive snare;
That all who will obey, with Him shall reign for aye,
And that's my business for my King."

Isaiah 55:6-7

"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD (*be rightly restored with God relationally – not soteriologically or in respect to salvation*), and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

God offers pardon to His people who stray from Him and who are rebellious against His ways. God simply wants His children to repent of their sinfulness in

light of His purity and holiness and return to the Lord for wondrous fellowship and blessing in life.

b. The pardon that follows repentance.

After repentance comes pardon or forgiveness! The result of repenting of our sins before God is pardon.

Isaiah 6:6-7 goes on to reveal this:

“Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, *which* he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid *it* upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity (*twisted and distorted ways*) is taken away, and thy sin (*offences*) purged.”

This symbolically enacts Isaiah’s cleansing and forgiveness of sin after he confessed his sin to God. Isaiah hears these reassuring words: “thine iniquity is taken away” Now sin was no longer a barrier between Isaiah and his God. When God’s holiness melts our hearts we will confess our sins and have our iniquities forgiven and purged and stop living the way we used to live. Isaiah’s conviction led to confession, and his confession led to cleansing.

1 John 1:9 is the New Testament equivalent:

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

What will it take to really change our lives? It will not be the emotional tear-jerking story of a preacher that changes your heart and brings us into the greatest hour of your life! It will be a fresh inner heart revelation of God’s character that changes our life. In life’s greatest hour, when the holiness of God stabs our hearts and stirs our souls once again, it’s then that things will really begin to change in our lives! This is because we will repent about our laziness, lack of service, sinful living, and begin to move out for God in new freshness and zeal. Do you remember this old saying?

“Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the king's men and all the king's horses,
Couldn't put Humpty Dumpty together again.”

There's a lot of theology in this old saying! Here is the lesson. You can't repair a broken life, but God can. If you will acknowledge your sin, His holiness, and Kingship (rulership) over your life, then God will put your life back together. God may be trying to speak to some of your hearts. The King is trying to get through to you today. You might think you are okay, but when you see the King in all of His holiness, you will melt before His presence and realize that there are some things in your life that need to be made right. When this happens to us, we will experience life's greatest hour in our lives. We will get right with God and allow Him to be king of our lives once again.

III. We naturally surrender to God's perfect will.

Isaiah 6:8

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord (Adonai), saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me."

This means that we must LOOK FORWARD and see what God wants us to do with our lives. Isaiah cried, "Here am I, send Me" (Isa. 6:8). After repentance comes service. Many times we don't want to serve the Lord because we have not yet repented of our sins and bad attitudes. However, the more we understand about sanctification (holiness) the more we will follow the will of God for our lives (1 Thess. 4:3). God's holiness demands a response of repentance and service from our lives. The holiness of God should stir us on to greater service for the Lord. It should get us out of the lazy chair and back into service for the King. After having a fresh glimpse and vision of God's holiness, the King, we should want to surrender to God's perfect will for our lives! "Here am I." At this point, there will not be any negotiations or deals with God. Only surrender!

As Andrew Murray once said: "There will be absolute surrender!"

Seeing God results in serving God. It is foolish for us to think that we can somehow serve God until we have come to the end of ourselves. But when we repent in view of God's holiness and begin to serve God, then we have entered life's greatest hour! It is the hour when you in glad and grateful surrender sit at Jesus' feet, bow prostrate before Him, ready to do all His bidding!

It's the time when you say:

“All my tomorrows, all my past,
Jesus is Lord of all.
I’ve quit my struggles, contentment at last!
Jesus is Lord of all.
King of kings, Lord of lords,
Jesus is Lord of all;
All my possessions and all my life,
Jesus is Lord of all.”

The nation of Israel needed the Lord, and the Lord wanted a servant to minister to the people. Isaiah volunteered to be that servant. He did not discuss his call with the Lord, as did Moses (Ex. 3:11–4:15) and Jeremiah (Jer. 1:4) but readily accepted the appointment and made himself available to his Master.

What does God want you to do? Maybe He wants you to follow Him in believer’s baptism, join the church, start serving Him in some specific way, and become a greater follow of His. Maybe He wants you to become more dedicated to church and to happily use your gifts for the Lord. It may be that He wants to change your attitude toward someone and go get right with them. Does He want you to go to the mission field somewhere? Send me! I’ll do it. I’ll get it done. When we see the King in all of His holiness, sitting on His throne, when we have a fresh stirring of God, we will not think twice of putting Him first in our lives and offering our life and service to Him. Mine eyes have seen the King; therefore, I will serve Thee Lord and give my days and time for you.

“Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,
By the pow’r of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine.”

This is life’s greatest hour! It’s the hour when God gets a hold of our hearts as young people, middle-aged, and even older saints. It’s the hour when we have a fresh awareness of God’s holiness that causes our hearts to become broken over our sin, and when we give our lives back to God in willing service. The influence of sin keeps us from doing God’s will! But after we repent and are cleansed (vs. 5-7) we are ready for service!! Isaiah cried in verse eight, “Here am I; send me.”

Vance Havner said:

“The vision must be followed by the venture (a journey). It is not enough to stare up the steps – we must step up the stairs.”

Mark this down, when we have a new revelation of God’s holy character as the King, when God speaks to us in our inner heart, we will not have to be pushed to serve the Lord! We will not have to be prodded to do the work of the Lord. We will not feel that doing God’s work and service is a burden that we must bear. No, we will happily say, “Here am I, send me.”

If a fresh glimpse or awareness of God in all His glorious holiness will not motivate us to serve Him, then nothing will break through our calloused hearts. God should never have to drag you into His service while you are kicking and screaming unless you have lost the wonder of having been forgiven of your sins and given a new start in life. We should be willing and ready to say, “Here am I, send me.”

We should not say as Moses said to God, “Here am I, send Aaron.” Moses thought Aaron was better qualified for the job. But God says, “I want you.” God wants you to do His bidding and will for your life! For some this means to enter a full-time service for the Lord – a missionary or pastoral call upon your life. For others it might simply mean that God wants you to go to your next-door neighbors and witness to them. He wants to send you out to be a better witness and example for the Lord so that you might have a spiritual impact on the lives of others. The important thing is that you are willing to go! It’s you that God wants! In fact, you can reach people that others cannot reach. Therefore, we must conclude with Isaiah: “Here am I, send me.”

Maybe God wants to send you to the church choir to sing or into the church kitchen to cook, or to the Sunday School to teach the children. God wants to send you into the local church and use your gifts for the Lord. When the King gets a hold of our hearts, we are to say, “Lord, send me! I’ll do it! I really will do it! I won’t drag my feet. I will follow Your will for my life. I will serve You as my King and Lord. I will serve Thee because I love Thee!”

Send me! This means that the Lord is more interested in people than in programs! Send Me! This may also mean that you don’t send a computer and guitar that you donated to missions. It might mean that you don’t even send your money! Isaiah

said, "Send Me." This means that you will ultimately make the decision to obey and engage in the work that God has specifically called you to do. We should never underestimate what God can do with a willing worker. In life's greatest hour, when God in all His holy wonder and Kingly majesty freshly stirs our hearts, we will find ourselves surrendering to God and volunteering for His service. We will find ourselves giving our lives wholeheartedly to Him!

A volunteer for Jesus,
A soldier true!
Others have enlisted,
Why not you?
Jesus is the Captain,
We will never fear,
Will you be enlisted
As a volunteer?

In life's greatest hour, when God stirs the heart afresh and anew, and when the heart surrenders to God, it's then that God will change the course of our lives, call missionaries to the field and convict preachers to declare His Word with boldness. When God stirs our hearts we will respond to Him in surrender, obedience, and active service. There can be no other choice! There can be no other way to find fulfillment in life. I want to share something very practical and from my heart. Don't run from God like Jonah did if God is calling you into full time Christian work on the mission field or to become a faithful preacher of His Word.

A young man who was wrestling with a decision about his future exclaimed, "I ought to let God have His way, but I can't seem to yield or even know what He wants for me." The day before, he had cut some letters out of construction paper and pinned them on his wall. The motto read LET GOD. He looked at it again and again as the turmoil in his heart continued. Finally, he decided to spend more time in prayer. When he rose from his knees, he was still perplexed and feeling utterly defeated. Upon leaving the room, he slammed the door in disgust, saying, "My own desires are just too strong. I guess I can't LET GOD." When he returned some time later, he found that the letter D had fallen to the floor when he had slammed the door shut.

To his surprise the reminder now read, LET GO instead of LET GOD. Suddenly the message was driven upon his heart, and he cried out: "I will, I will, Lord Jesus!" Then and there he renounced his selfish desires and offered his life completely to the Lord. God had wanted him to surrender his whole life to God and LET GO of his own selfish ambitions in life so He could in return let God work in his life. We must first let go (surrender) and then we can let God do His work in our lives. We must let go of our will, our way, our sin, our entire life – only then will we find God's true purpose for our lives.

In life's greatest hour God stirs our hearts. We repent of known sins and God rekindles the smoldering fire so that we surrender to Him and launch out for Him in new service and work. "Here am I, send me!" "Take me dear God! I'm yours! Use me Lord!" Someone wrote these words of surrender:

"All of me not a part but all of me,
All the heart and soul of me,
Jesus, I surrender.
I believe, Lord, help my unbelief,
On the altar now I lay all I am today.
So use me, Lord, use me anywhere at all,
Though my palace may be great or small,
Let me fill it gladly.

Take my life be it poor or be it grand,
Let me live it by Your plan. Shape it with Your hand.
As I am I come to Thee without one plea.
Only that Thy saving blood was shed for me,
All of me through the ages yet to be,
I surrender Lord to Thee,
I surrender all of me."

The lesson we learn from Isaiah 6 is very simple: We need a fresh stirring! We must react to the holiness of God in service and dedication to His holy way for our lives. May our prayer be that God will once again move in our hearts and lives in a new and fresh way! May our prayer be that God would stir our hearts once again and bring us into life's greatest hour, when we see God in His glory, holiness, and

Kingly majesty and respond to this new vision of His character upon our hearts with repentance and revitalized service!

For many Christians holiness means stained glass windows, sacraments, and candles. These things are not holiness; they are religious trappings. God wants us to respond to His holy character – not to false expressions of holiness.

It should also be noted that many times we allow the cares of this world and life (Mark 4:19) to take away our hearts from God and His way for our life. But when God stirs the heart we can be sure that something is going to happen! God can do something for you that no other person can do.

Isaiah said, “I saw the LORD” and “Mine eyes have seen the king.” Isaiah met with God! He encountered God! Do you need to meet with God today? The greatest hour in a person’s life is when he meets with a holy God in REPENTANCE and absolute SURRENDER to His will. It is this hour that changes everything! It is an hour that changes the course of one’s life. It’s hour that is looked back upon which brought a new start (a fresh start) in one’s Christian life. This is life’s greatest hour!

Isaiah saw the holiness of God, the hellishness of his sin, the hopefulness of cleansing and finally responded heroically to God’s call and mission for his life – “Here am I: send me.”

Life’s greatest hour is when the unseen things about God suddenly break upon our soul and for the first time we see ourselves, as Isaiah saw Himself, and we cry out to God for cleansing and consecrate ourselves fully to His cause. It is the hour when you say, “Here am I, send me.” I’ll do what You want me to do dear Lord, I’ll go where You want me to go!” It’s the hour that changes everything forever! It’s life’s greatest hour!

Someone said:

“Every man is as holy as he really wants to be. But the want must be all-compelling.”

Leviticus 11:44

“For I *am* the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I *am* holy”

Many years ago, J. B. Phillips wrote an influential little book entitled, "Your God Is Too Small." The title says it all. We no longer see our great, holy God sitting high and lifted up upon His heavenly throne. We no longer want to honor His holiness. We really want to follow our own pleasures and do what we want and think is okay instead of putting our lives under the scrutiny of God's holy character.

Samuel Chadwick said this about God stirring our hearts:

"Spirit-filled souls are ablaze for God. They love with a love that glows. They believe with a faith that kindles. They serve with a devotion that consumes. They hate sin with a fierceness that burns. They rejoice with a joy that radiates. Love is perfected in the fire of God."



In the forests of northern Europe and Asia lives little animal called the ermine, known for his snow-white fur in winter. He instinctively protects his white coat against anything that would soil it. Fur hunters take advantage of this unusual trait of the ermine. They don't set a snare to catch him, but instead they find his home, which is usually a cleft in a rock or a hollow

in an old tree. They smear the entrance and interior with grime. Then the hunters set their dogs loose to find and chase the ermine. The frightened animal flees toward home but doesn't enter because of the filth. Rather than soil his white coat, he is trapped by the dogs and captured while preserving his purity. For the ermine, purity is more precious than life. And for the Christian, purity of living should be more important than anything else in our lives.

"I saw the Lord!" "Mine eyes have seen the King!" No person can ever see Isaiah's God and King and continue to be irreverent before His presence. No person can see God as the holy King without repenting of his sin and carnality, confessing his sins, and surrendering to the Lord. Will you see God as Isaiah saw Him? Are you ready to see the King in all of His splendor and holiness? Beloved, will you allow God to reveal Himself to you today? Will you respond to the revelation of His

character that is being impressed upon your heart? Will you repent of your sin and render service unto Him? This could be life's greatest hour for you! Let God break through your heart once again.

Life's greatest hour is a time when we see God in His awesome purity, when we give everything to Him and come away a different man or woman. It's a time when we sense His special calling and consecration upon our lives. It's an hour that in some sense changes everything! Let us hide in His holiness today and allow God to bring us to repentance and renewal.

“Hide me Lord in Your holiness,
Every sin I now confess,
Praise to You, forgiving Lord.
Hide me in Your holiness.
Hide me in Your holiness.”