

Lesson 2– Prayer: The Heartbeat of Revival

January 10, 2021

Background Passage: Isaiah 6, 2 Kings 15

Lesson Passage: Isaiah 6:1-5, 8-11 (NKJV)

Background: King Uzziah of Judah had a long and distinguished reign, described in 2 Chronicles 26 and in 2 Kings 15:1-7. Uzziah began his reign when he was only 16 years old, and he reigned 52 years. Overall, he was a good king, and 2 Kings 15:3 says, *he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done.* 2 Chronicles 26:5 says, *He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.* 2 Chronicles 26:8 says, *His fame spread as far as the entrance of Egypt, for he strengthened himself exceedingly.* But Uzziah's life ended tragically. 2 Chronicles 26:16 says, *But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.* In response, God struck Uzziah with leprosy, and he was an isolated leper until his death.

Introduction: How do we start a revival? Can we start a revival? Last week we learned that the church is in desperate need of revival. This week as we are reminded of the major role that prayer has in true revival, we must begin with allowing God to speak to our hearts and our hearts responding to His speaking. It's in these moments of God speaking to our hearts that we realize there is nothing good about us and that we are totally dependent on God's mercy and grace to bring about a true revival in our life.

Scripture Reference: Isaiah 6:1-5, 8-11 (NKJV)

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" 4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 So I said: "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 my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts." 8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." 9 And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' 10 "Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed." 11 Then I said, "Lord, how long?" And He answered: "Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, the houses are without a man, The land is utterly desolate.

Memory Verse: *"And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" (Isaiah 6:3) NKJV*

Topic Explored: *"Prayer: The Heartbeat of Revival"*. Our lesson deals in the hope that God would grant believers a deeper understanding and awareness of His holiness (Isaiah 6:1-5). The holiness of God, generally, is a neglected subject in the church today. Yet, it is essential to revival. We need to understand that God is utterly holy. He does not and cannot sin. He is not a "tempter" nor is He tempted. He is pure and without the stain of sin. He always does what is right and good. It is only when we see the absolute holiness of God that we see ourselves in desperate need of cleansing and renewal. After studying this lesson may we be reminded to pray that all believers, including ourselves, would be gripped by the absolute holiness of God.

Lesson Focus: Isaiah 6:1-5, 8-11 (NKJV)

Verses 1-2 ~ The Book opens with a description of Isaiah's vision after the death of King Uzziah. Isaiah may have been depressed or discouraged because a great leader of Judah was no longer on the throne. Uzziah may not be on his throne, but God is still on The Throne! In Isaiah's vision, he sees the train of God's robe fill the temple. Kings of that time would wear robes with long trains, which meant: "I am a person of honor and dignity". However, God is so honored, so important, so dignified, that the train of His robe actually *filled* the temple. Surrounding the throne of God are angels known as seraphim. In Revelation 4:8, the Apostle John also mentions their six wings. They have the six wings, so each can cover his face (to show they are too lowly to look upon the Lord), and to cover his feet (to hide this "humble" area of the body, so nothing even possibly deficient is seen in the Lord's presence), and so each can fly.

Verses 3-5 ~ "*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts*": Why do they repeat "*holy*" three times? Wasn't it enough to simply say "*holy*" once? It was not enough. They say it three times because there are Three Persons in the One God. They are proclaiming His glorious nature and character to each another, in the presence of the Lord! "*Woe is me, for I am undone!*" What made Isaiah feel like he was coming apart? Two things –first, the sight and sound of the seraphim; and second, the vision of the Lord God. When Isaiah saw the angels, in all their holy humility, obedience, and praise to God, he realized, not only that he was unlike the Lord God, but he was also unlike the angels. They could cry out Holy, holy, holy and praise God so beautifully, but he could not because he was a man of unclean lips. When Isaiah saw the Lord, he knew what kind of man he was. This vision (or actual experience) of the throne of God did not immediately make Isaiah feel good. The more clearly, he saw the Lord, the more clearly, he saw his deplorable condition. I am undone is not a bad place to be. "*God will never do anything with us till he has first of all undone us.*" (Spurgeon) Isaiah saw his sinfulness, and the sinfulness of his people, mainly in terms of sinful speech. Isaiah did not think for a moment that this was his only sin, but he saw that this was an example of the great and incurable disease of sin in him and his people. Isaiah was a righteous, godly man by all outward appearance. Yet when he saw the enthroned King, the Lord of hosts, he saw how sinful he was in comparison.

Verses 8-9 ~ "*Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"* Then I said, "*Here am I! Send me.*" Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us? God looked for someone to send. He wanted someone to go. How strange it is for God to ask a question at all! What does God wonder about? What questions would He have? What does God not know? But God was asking for a person because God wants to reach the world, and He wants to reach it through willing people. It is not that God does not know who these people are. It is that God is waiting for ready hearts to reveal themselves. How strange it is that this God of majesty, sovereignty, and power asks for volunteers! He could easily create robots to do His work, or command angels to carry out His will. But God wants willing, surrendered servants. Have you been waiting for God to force you to serve Him? He looks for volunteers! Whom shall I send means that the missionary, the Christian worker, the witness of Jesus Christ, is sent. This is a divine commission. Who will go for Us? Here we see a cooperation of the divine *sent* and the human *will go*. Here am I! Send me: Isaiah emphatically answered God's call. He did not hesitate. What created this kind of heart in Isaiah? He had a heart that had been touched by God's cleansing fire. He had a heart that had been revived and restored!! Send me meant Isaiah was submitted to the Lord in all his service. He did not even say, "Here I am, *I will go.*" Isaiah would

not go at all unless he knew he was sent by the Lord. Many are quick to say, “Here I am, I will go” but never listen for the Lord to send them.

Verse 10 ~ God told Isaiah to go and preach to a people who would not respond, acknowledging their guilt. What preacher could be satisfied with a ministry that made the heart of the people dull, and their ears heavy, and shut their eyes? Isaiah might not be satisfied with it. The people might not be satisfied with it. But God would be satisfied with it. *“And understand with their heart and return and be healed”*. This shows what the Word of God can accomplish when it is received with open eyes, ears, and hearts. It brings understanding to our heart, it makes us return, and it brings healing to our lives. It brings a “revival” into our lives! If you are under the Word of God and these things are not happening to you, ask God to work with your eyes, ears, and heart!

Verse 11 ~ I said, *“Lord, how long?”* This is a logical question from anyone who is given such a difficult commission. *“I have to preach to those who won’t hear, and their rejection of my message will ultimately seal their doom? How long will I have to serve in that kind of ministry?”* Preach in hope of the restoration of a remnant (yet a tenth will be in it and will return). Even though Isaiah’s ministry was difficult, it was not without hope.

Life Application/Let’s talk:

- 1. Are there conditions to having one’s prayers answered? Yes or No. Please explain your answer.**
- 2. Should we pray for a revival? Yes or No. Please explain your answer.**

Application(s):

As we enter earnest and heartfelt intercession, the Holy Spirit powerfully works in miraculous ways through our united prayers.

Closing Prayer: *“We live in such an age where people wander aimlessly to find something to give them meaning and life. What they seek they do not find, because they are not finding it in the true source of life itself-You. Father, today we come together as true and sincere followers of You to ardently ask for a revival of souls in this age. Lord, we desire for our friends, families, and neighbors to be open and to seek and find the truth of the authentic source of life that can only be found in You. In the Name of Jesus, we pray, Amen!!”*