

“PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR SPIRITUAL SERVICE”

ISAIAH 6:1-8

INTRO: When a person joins one of the military branches of the Armed Forces, he must go off to basic training in order to prepare for the service he will conduct as a member of the military. That basic training is designed to transform him from a regular citizen of America to one who is equipped to serve America in combat if necessary. Then, throughout his military career, he continues to train in order to prepare for whatever he may face in promoting and defending the nation. **The same scenario relates to those of us who are in the service of the Lord. We are saved to serve the Lord and must be prepared to do all that it takes to promote and defend the truth of the Gospel. If we are properly prepared, we will succeed as God desires. If we are not properly prepared, we will fail in the mission.** A great lesson on PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR SPIRITUAL SERVICE is seen in Isaiah 6 as Isaiah relates his call to the ministry. In this passage are **FIVE GREAT PRINCIPLES ISAIAH EXPERIENCED** that equipped him to be what is referred to as **THE GREATEST OLD TESTAMENT PROPHET!** Each of these principles applies to us in our PREPARATION FOR SPIRITUAL SERVICE as well. Let's examine them today.

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I. A CLEAR VISION – VSS. 1-4

NOTE: In preparation for his ministry, God gave Isaiah a clear vision of His MAJESTIC HOLINESS AND GLORY. This vision MOTIVATED and MAINTAINED Isaiah for his ministry that resulted in effective service.

NOTE: EFFECTIVE SPIRITUAL SERVICE COMES ONLY AFTER WE SEE THE GREATNESS OF GOD!

A. The Ingredients of the Vision

NOTE: The vision took place in the year Good King Uzziah died – 739 B.C.

NOTE: The phrase “I SAW” is intense and indicates that Isaiah became practically unconscious of the world around him and SAW GOD ONLY!

1. Isaiah saw the Lord – Vs.1 (Adonai – Master)

- a. The Lord's Throne was **“HIGH AND LIFTED UP.”** That is, greatly elevated to show the MOST HIGH GOD.
- b. The Lord's Train **“FILLED THE TEMPLE”** “Train” refers to the hem of the Lord's GLORIOUS ROBE that filled the Heavenly Temple.

2. Isaiah saw the Seraphim – Vss. 2,3 (Not known how many)

- a. Seraphim are angelic beings created to worship God at His throne.
- b. Seraphim have SIX wings (Very significant to recognize)
 - 1) Two to cover the face = To shield God's Glory
 - 2) Two to cover the feet = To acknowledge humility in service.
 - 3) Two to fly = To serve at the Lord's request.
- c. Seraphim spoke to each other- **“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”** (Trihagion)
 - 1) To show the Lord's Exaltation above Humanity.
 - 2) To show the Lord's Separation from Sin.
 - 3) To show the Lord's Triune existence.

NOTE: ALL HEAVEN AND EARTH IS FILLED WITH GOD'S GLORY!

3. Isaiah saw the Posts of the Throne Room Door move – Vs. 4

- a. The Shaking of the Door – **The Fear of the Lord.**
- b. The Smoke in the Room – **The Judgment of the Lord.**
-Cp. Revelation 15:8 (Before God's wrath poured out on earth)

B. The Importance of the Vision

-Resulted in Isaiah becoming the greatest Old Testament Prophet who spoke more of God's glory, of eternity past and present, of Christ, of the future than any other Old Testament Prophet.

OBSERVATION: If we are going to serve the Lord, we MUST have a CLEAR VISION of the Lord....NOT A VISIBLE VISION, but a CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S HOLINESS AND GLORY!

- By Blocking out other visions of self, people and things of the world.
- By Seeing God in His Word and Works

ILLUSTRATION:

II. A CONTRITE HEART – VS. 5

-Isaiah was born into an influential family and was a royal advisor on foreign affairs. But when he saw the HOLINESS OF THE LORD he realized his sinfulness and was filled with contrition.

- A. Contrition involves broken heartedness over sin –Psalm 32:3,4
- B. Contrition leads to confession – Psalm 32:5
- C. Contrition pleases God – Isaiah 66:2

ILLUSTRATION:

III. A CLEANSED LIFE – VSS, 6,7

-NO SPIRITUAL CLEANSING EQUALS NO SPIRITUAL SERVICE!

- A. Primary Cleansing = Salvation – Isaiah 1:18
- B. Present Cleansing = Confession – 1 John 1:9
- C. Preventative Cleansing = Separation – James 1:27

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. A CONTEMPLATED HEARING – VS. 8a

“I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD SAYING...”

OBSERVATION: The Triune God is implied in this statement.

QUESTION: HOW CAN WE HAVE A CONTEMPLATED HEARING?

- A. By Forsaking Human Voices (There are many)
 - B. By Focusing on God's Voice
- A combination of God's Word, Prayer and the Holy Spirit

ILLUSTRATION:

V. A CONSCIOUS RESPONSE – VS. 8b

“HERE AM I; SEND ME”

- A. A Readiness to Go wherever God Sends
- B. A Willingness to Trust God as He Sends

ILLUSTRATION:

APPLICATION/LESSON: Serving God begins with a Clear Vision of His Holy and Glory. The rest will follow in an appropriate fashion if not resisted. **What is YOUR VISION OF GOD?**