

**"HERE I AM, SEND ME!"**

*{Isaiah 6:1-8}*

Trinity Presbyterian Church

February 3, 2008

When was the last time you *experienced* the *presence* of God in your life?

When was the last time you heard God speak to you?

Perhaps the question should be rephrased to: Have you *ever* personally *experienced* God in your life? Have you ever heard God speak...to you?

The Prophet Isaiah had an euphoric moment that transformed his life...*totally!*

**WORSHIP**

It is my prayer every Sunday as we gather for worship that **each person will in some way have an encounter** with Almighty God and **sense the anointing of the Holy Spirit.**

Our text of the morning outlines **four things we should come expecting in worship.**

**1. WE SHOULD SENSE GOD'S PRESENCE {6:1-4}**

*"In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of His robe filled the Temple. Hovering around Him were mighty seraphim, each with six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with the remaining two they flew. In a great chorus they sang, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty! The whole earth is filled with His glory!' The glorious singing shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire sanctuary was filled with smoke."*

We gather in worship to connect with God—to hear Him speak. Isaiah had an encounter with God and he knew that he was in the very presence of the Almighty. You cannot experience this and miss it! It is glorious...beyond description...it's unmistakable...*and*, to say the least—it's startling!

Visualize this majestic scene—Isaiah...

...sees the Lord sitting on His throne

...He is surrounded by mighty seraphim

...an angelic chorus is singing: *"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord Almighty!"*

...and, the impact of this is so incredible that the Temple

shakes...and the entire sanctuary is filled with smoke

...truly awesome *{there is no way we can comprehend it!}*

One cannot be in the presence of God's holiness...His purity...without being...

**2. CONVICTED OF OUR OWN SINFULNESS {6:5}**

*“Then I said, ‘My destruction is sealed, for I am a sinful man and a member of a sinful race {I am a man of unclean lips}. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord Almighty!’”*

Isaiah is shaken by this—he recognizes the great chasm between himself and Almighty God. He is filled with terror and knows he is ruined/doomed for two reasons: he is unclean...*and*...he has seen God!

We sang this morning...

*“Pure and holy I would be, worthy of Your love for me.*

*Teach me while Your light is clear; change me while my heart is near.*

*You are great and I am small; You are King and God of all.*

*You are wise in all You do; Lord, I put my trust in You.”*

God is holy...God is love...God is light...God is great...God is Ruler and King of the Universe...God is all wise...*and*...we are weak...small...finite...in need of His touch to transform and change us from within.

In the presence of the Almighty we are **forced into being convicted of our sinfulness**...and, **our need of forgiveness!** It is only then will we acknowledge we are **people with unclean lips**...with an **impure heart**.

At that time...

### 3. WE ARE REMINDED OF GOD’S GRACE {6:6-7}

*“Then one of the seraphim flew over to the altar, and he picked up a burning coal with a pair of tongs. He touched my lips with it and said, ‘See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven.’”*

*“Amazing Grace...how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!”*

Our sin reminds us of God’s grace...His mercy...His love...without which—we are wrecked/doomed! But, when our eyes are opened we then welcome the symbolic **“burning coal”**—that touch from the Holy Spirit—setting us free...and removing our guilt...and opening us up for whatever God has for us—no longer condemned...but free at last...

Free to receive...

### 4. GOD’S COMMISSIONING TO SERVE {6:8}

*“Then I heard the Lord asking, ‘Whom should I send as a messenger to the people? Who will go for us?’*

*“And I said, ‘Lord, I’ll go! Send me!’”*

God had touched his mouth for a purpose...He needed a messenger—a mouthpiece—an advocate! Now note: God does not tell Isaiah what it is he is to do...where he will be sent...*or*...what’s it’s going to entail—**all He asks for is a willing messenger!**

### CONCLUSION—SAMUEL’S STORY

Samuel’s mother, Hannah, wanted a baby so bad. She prayed in earnest for God to give her a son and promised to give him back to the Lord if He would answer her prayer.

God answered her prayer and gave her a son, Samuel, and she, in turn kept her promise and took her young son to the Tabernacle in Shiloh. She told Eli the priest...

*"I asked the Lord to give me this child, and He has given me my request. Now I am giving him to the Lord, and he will belong to the Lord his whole life. And they worshiped the Lord." {1 Samuel 1:27-28}*

When we give a gift to the Lord—no matter what it is—we, in turn, must let go. I recall well a conversation I had with Toni Jett in August 2006 when we were considering Ryan Tally for our staff. She was most anxious for Ryan to have this experience ministering to youth in the church and being mentored by Vincent and myself. Like Hannah, little did Toni realize what God was about to do in/through her son.

Several years passed and Samuel *"gained favor with the Lord."*

One night Eli had just gone to bed...and...

*"Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle...and...suddenly the Lord called out, Samuel! Samuel!"*

*"Yes?" Samuel replied, 'What is it?' He jumped up and ran to Eli, 'Here I am. What do you need?'"*

*"I didn't call you,' Eli replied. 'Go on back to bed.' So he did.*

*"Then the Lord called out again, 'Samuel!"*

*"Again Samuel jumped up and ran to Eli, 'Here I am,' he said, 'What do you need?'"*

*"I didn't call you, my son,' Eli said, 'Go on back to bed.'"*

*"The Lord called a third time, and once more Samuel jumped up and ran to Eli, 'Here I am,' he said, 'What do you need?'"*

*"Then Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy. So he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Yes, Lord, your servant is listening.' So Samuel went back to bed.*

*"And the Lord came and called as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!"*

*"And Samuel replied, 'Yes, your servant is listening!'" {1 Samuel 3:2-10}*

Ryan joined the staff in August, 2006—and God immediately began working in his life.

I'm sure there were times when God was probing Ryan's heart that he probably called out, *"I'm wrecked...I'm sinful...I'm a young man filled with thoughts that race through young men's minds...I'm unworthy!"*

But, God kept working...you were touched by those tongs...

✚ Hume Lake

✚ 2006 Leadership Summit

✚ Bono's DVD and an appeal to reach out to those with HIV/AIDS

✚ Watoto Choir—children who lost their parents to AIDS

✚ Marilee Pierce-Dunker—in May asking God to break our hearts with the things that break the heart of God.

✚ 2007 Leadership Summit—the little girl in the video...that did it.

**DVD #18**

God broke your heart...and you said to me, *“I’ve got this burning in my gut—I’ve got to go to Africa and do something!”*

I told you to read the story of Samuel...

And **God has opened the door.**

God said to you: *“Whom shall I send as a messenger...one who will discern the needs of my people in Africa?”*

You responded like Samuel: *“I’m listening Lord!”*

And God said: *“Will you go for to Africa for me?”*

And, you, Ryan Tally, responded: ***“Lord, I’ll go! Send me!”***