

HAVE A FRESH ENCOUNTER WITH GOD

AUG 25, 2024

WORSHIP

One God, Anchor of Our Lives, Goodness of God, To God be the Glory (medley to) So Faithful, Great is Thy Faithfulness (medley to) Never Once

WELCOME

What anniversaries have you celebrated so far this year? What do these milestones remind you about God?

WORD

ISAIAH 6:8

(READ ALL VERSES FROM V.1 TO 8)

⁸ Then 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!"

Forty is a significant measurement of time in the Bible. Forty years usually depicts a generation in scripture. As we celebrate our 40th Anniversary, we are reminded that our church is all about God who has given us a mission – to MAKE DISCIPLES. The danger is to think we are so accomplished. We still have a lot of work to do! The work has just begun. Millions more need to hear about Jesus in our metropolis alone. What is needed today? We need to **HAVE A FRESH ENCOUNTER WITH GOD**. We need to have a fresh encounter with God daily! Let's look into the amazing life and ministry of Isaiah who served God for almost 60 years, under five kings in Judah. Isaiah remained faithful to God because he had a fresh encounter with Him.

ISAIAH 6:1-3

It was when King Uzziah died that Isaiah saw the LORD on His throne (**Isaiah 6:1**). Instabilities and challenges surrounded Isaiah, and there were a lot of worries and fears in the kingdom. Kings and presidents may come and go, but God is still ON THE THRONE (**Psalms 135:6, Ephesians 1:11**)! There's no accident in your life; (**Romans 8:28-29**); to say this means God is in control and sovereign.

As a church, we had to leave the previous place we were renting for our worship center. That sad decision prompted us to have our own home at the CCF Center, our base of operation for a global discipleship movement! Have a high view of God. He is in control, and the result is we can have peace. **Romans 8:31-32** points us to the source of our confidence: God is for us, and no one can be against us! God sent His Son, Jesus to die for the forgiveness of our sins. It's the proof of His love for us.

The first thing God wanted Isaiah to know was His majesty and greatness. We can be at rest because God is in charge. **Isaiah 6:2-3** describes the Seraphim, superbeings in the presence of God doing something we cannot because God is too holy for our eyes to behold. They exalt the absolute goodness and holiness of God. God is HOLY – He is distinct as the Creator, His moral perfection is undisputed, and He is the example of moral purity (light). In the book of Revelation, these angels (seraphim) were mentioned too (**Revelation 4:8**), still praising our holy, holy, holy God! He has absolute power and absolute control, and at the same time, the LORD is absolutely pure and good – these define who God is (**1 John 1:5**). God created us as human beings in His image. We submit to God's authority because of who He is. How do we know we have encountered the Lord?

ISAIAH 6:4-7

Isaiah 6:4-5 shows Isaiah's response when he encountered the Lord. Isaiah saw his imperfection (**v.5**). He saw himself as ruined, seeing his sinfulness, even if it was just having unclean lips – most

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probably he felt he had said something bad in his life (**Matthew 15:18**). We need not compare ourselves with others to measure our holiness – compared to Jesus, we are broken and need grace and mercy. God loves you, but until you realize you are a sinner, you will not understand the grace of God and your need for a Savior.

Isaiah 6:6-7 talks about how the seraphim drew near to the humbled Isaiah, and the angel provided forgiveness and purification for him. This was a prophetic picture involving the altar where the burnt sacrifice is offered, and the sanctification that resulted after it. We come before God to admit we are sinners, and we receive God's gracious forgiveness. A high view of God, and a proper view of ourselves, will then allow us to see the needs of others.

ISAIAH 6:8

After Isaiah was forgiven and cleansed, he heard the Lord asking, **"Whom shall I send, who will go for Us?" (Isaiah 6:8)**. The moment when Isaiah sensed this need, he immediately volunteered and said, **"HERE AM I, SEND ME!"**. This showed that Isaiah knew the gospel and understood the ministry of the Messiah and even prophesied about it (**Isaiah 53:5-6**).

Romans 1:14-16 shows the heart of the Apostle Paul as well – after encountering Jesus, he considered himself **"under obligation"**, he was **"eager to preach"**, and he was **"not ashamed of the gospel ... it is the power of God for salvation..."** People are lost without Jesus, and they need to hear the Good News! But you will not share the gospel if you have not experienced the gospel. **Revelation 20:11-12** and **15** describe the judgment for sinners—no one can escape. God is holy and will judge evil; yet we receive God's mercy when we come to Jesus, admit we are sinners, and accept the grace He offers for the forgiveness of our sins. **Revelation 21:8** talks about sins that bring judgment, which all of us could be guilty of (we have all lied!). We ask for mercy on account of Christ.

Have you surrendered your life to God? Are you ready to volunteer and say, "Here am I, send me!"? We all need a fresh encounter with God, so stop playing games! Admit you are a sinner, accept Jesus as Savior and Lord, and receive forgiveness for your sins. Serve God and be bringers of a fresh encounter with God to others as we continue ahead in the next forty years to come! Blessed 40th Anniversary, CCF family, and all praises, honor and glory be to our God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

Why is it important to have the right view of God? Why is it important to have the right view of ourselves?

2. Setting It Right.

How do you see yourself when put in contrast with God's holiness and perfection? How do you feel about drawing near to God with your imperfections?

3. Living It Out.

What specific mission is God giving you after having been transformed completely by His grace? What should be your motivation in serving God?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for someone you know who needs a personal encounter with God in their life. Volunteer to tell them about who God is and how He has shown His unlimited faithfulness in your own life! Share the gospel of Jesus Christ with them this week.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- God's help and comfort for the Sudanese people caught in violence and conflict.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented; tension in East Asian and Middle East countries to stop.
- Continue to pray for the rest of Israeli hostages to be restored back to their families safely.
- Pray for Israel and the war with terrorists to end according to God's purpose and for His glory.
- For the recent political and social upheaval in the US to result in spiritual awakening in the church and a great spiritual harvest.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, deacons, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

ISAIAH 6:8

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