

Sermon Transcript

5th June 2022

Isaiah 6:1-10 (NIV)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar.

With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”
And I said “Here am I. Send me!”

TITLE

Have you ever had a life-changing experience? I expect all of us have PICTURES. They can either be positive or negative. Here's a few. Negative includes life changing health events (serious illness, accidents and the like), loss of a loved one, near fatal incident, a victim of crime) or positive (financial windfall, falling in love and the like). These can have an effect of changing our lives permanently, sometimes because of the physical, psychological or financial consequences, or if not that, can shape our lives for many years and affect our actions and relationships.

PENTECOST SLIDE

Of course, there are many who have been changed by a spiritual experience that has been life-changing. Our own decision to follow Jesus was one of them and that was eternity changing too! Pentecost is here and on this day we remember a life-changing spiritual experience the disciples had, as the Holy Spirit was poured out on them. His coming was announced through a roaring wind and tongues of fire. It's difficult for us to picture the scene, although artists have tried with varying levels of success. I've gone for something more abstract.

The disciples response was that their lives where changed then and there, and Ian reminded us of that earlier. The Spirit changed them and used them powerfully not just on Pentecost but in the subsequent years.

ISAIAH

There are many parallels here with the commissioning of Isaiah in chapter 6. He found himself having a vision of God. He experienced the glory of God too: the presence of God was typified by smoke and fire. As he reflected on his sinfulness and inadequacy, he found that it was God who made him holy – touched his lips with the red hot coal – to signify cleansing from sin in the way

that fire is used to refine precious metals. Fire can also be used in the context of firing someone up – motivating them – to do something. Isaiah was being fired up to bring God’s prophetic word to a people who fundamentally were going to resist God’s message.

Don’t forget that in all the excitement of Pentecost and following days, that was going to be the experience of the apostles too – they were to be sent out as messengers – and although they were to see the church grow rapidly, they would also suffer opposition and persecution, something that by tradition, would make all but one martyrs. Even the one left over, John, died an exile on Patmos.

Sometimes it is dramatic events in life that change us spiritually. They can be dramatically spiritual, like Pentecost. I know of many who have experienced power manifestations of the Holy Spirit, had visions of heaven, heard God audibly, received miraculous healing, witnessed something miraculous of the Holy Spirit. And its changed them.

They may be other dramatic but amazing events. The Philippian jailer for example found that his jail was hit by an earthquake and the doors opened but none of the prisoners had escaped. His response to Paul and Barnabas was “what must I do to be saved.”

Have these sort of occurrences been us in some form or another? What was our response? If it was years ago , how are we living up to that now? Do we need a fresh filling of God’s Spirit?

Now maybe you’re not a person who has experienced the spiritually dramatic, you have believed, but life has been pretty normal. VERSE Before you think yourself less of a believer than you should be, then I would remind you of the words of Jesus to “doubting Thomas” when he finally met his Lord “[Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.](#)” John 20:29. You’ve trusted and followed Christ by taking Him at His word. So feel very blessed; the Lord commends you for your faith because you’ve trusted without drama!

Whatever your experience of God may be, the most important thing is that you have come into a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, by trusting in his finished work on the cross and receiving forgiveness, hope, the presence of the Holy Spirit and new life as a result. That’s why we celebrate Communion this morning.

Before we come around the table, what can we take away from the Pentecost story and Isaiah’s Temple vision today?

- A TASTE of God’s glory

The disciples were gathered together praying, Isaiah had his vision in the Temple where he was worshipping (look at my first sermon in the series to see where I get that from). They had placed themselves where they were expectant of God doing something – and He did! There is the danger that we expect little of God, particularly when we go through difficult times. Someone once said “blessed are those who expect nothing; they are rarely disappointed.” Thy Kingdom Come is not about praying in a way that takes a punt as to whether God will answer or not, but praying with intent, claiming the promise of Jesus “And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” John 14:13. Let’s start praying and expecting to experience God’s glory. One you do you will start seeing His glory all over the place. As the seraphim said ““Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

- A DISPLAY of God's power
And as we pray in faith, we don't just see the glory of God in hitherto unexpected places, we see the power of the Holy Spirit working with us and through us. Expect God to change others as He changes you. One thing I have found has come forth as an emphasis this TKC has been for me that as I pray for God to change others, I should be aware that God wants to change me too. That applies to all of us. As we look forward as a church for God to do new things – lead us to a new Pastor, refresh our mission, lead us into new ministries and revitalise existing ones, then we must realise that none of it is going to be achieved unless we are changed, renewed, too and we need to ask the Holy Spirit to fill us afresh.
- A GIFT of God's grace
But as we are challenged with the fact that if we know and trust Christ then the Holy Spirit desires to fill us. Allow Him to fill you, perhaps for the first time, perhaps again. Let Him use you in new and fresh ways. As we hear stuff like this, there is a danger we will pull out the EXCUSEOMETER: "but I'm too old, I'm not ready, I'm a sinner because I've done this and that, I'm not worthy, I have no gifts and talents, I'm sick, I've got responsibilities." Where do you come on the excusometer? It doesn't matter what your excuses are and how many there are, in His death on the cross, God has made you everything you need in Christ to be and to live as one of His people. Just as the angel made Isaiah's lips fit to speak the words of God, the Holy Spirit makes you fit and empowered to go God's will in whichever way that He purposes. And He can and will make your excuses melt away.

TITLE

Knowing this all to be the case, let's say with Isaiah "Here I am Lord, send me." That's the challenge of TKC and of Pentecost. It's wonderful that you may want God to change others, but allow the Holy Spirit to change you and transform you too. If you've never trusted Jesus at all, do so today. In Him you will find forgiveness, hope, relationship with God and the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life. If you already do then instead of me doing a prayer now, I am going to read Paul's prayer for his readers in Ephesians 1. As I read it, please appropriate this for yourself as we come to Communion and then we will have a few moments silence to reflect on it in silence.

EPHESIANS 1:17-19a

17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Father, make this so in our lives today and day by day.

[Silence] TITLE

Amen

Let's respond to this in song as we sing PURIFY MY HEART (servers to come up during song)

COMMUNION: A celebration of God's power

We come to Communion, fit and ready to experience His presence around the table this morning. Apart from remembering the death of Jesus, we see in Him the power of God as the One who died is now risen. Let's reflect on the power that God the Holy Spirit uses in our lives as we remember the reason why we are here this morning – to remember Jesus in His body broken and His shed

blood and to remind ourselves of who He is now, knowing that when we are praying, that this is who we are addressing. The Ephesians passage we just read goes on to describe the incomparable power of God which he has prayed for us to have.

EPHESIANS 1:19b-23

That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

COMMUNION

Prayer of thanks for the broken body and shed blood of Jesus

WORDS OF INVITATION

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,

“This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying,

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

The bread and wine

Post-communion prayer plus prayer for fellowship. (TKC SLIDE)

For Reflection & Discussion

As preparation, read Acts 2 and Isaiah 6.

1. Have you ever had a life-changing experience, whether positive or negative? Is it something that still affects your life, or is it something you would prefer to forget?
2. What about encounters with God you’ve had? How dramatic was that encounter and what was your response? If it was years ago, how are you living up to that now? Do you feel you need a fresh filling of God’s Spirit?
3. Why is it important that we try to recognise the work of God in our lives and His glory in the world around us? How do we turn that into something God can use in our lives? Try to think of ways that God is working in us and through us now?
4. Feel blessed if God decides to do something spectacular in our lives, but should we need God to do that in our lives for us to be mature, healthy Christians?