

## **Life's Greatest Hour!**

(Isaiah 6:1-8)

Pastor Kelly Sensenig

A little boy excitedly told his mom that he had just measured himself and he was six feet tall! Mom was a little skeptical, so she asked him to measure himself again while she watched. She discovered the problem when the boy took out a 6-inch ruler instead of a 12-inch ruler. He had calculated well: he was six-ruler-heights tall – he just had the wrong ruler, the wrong standard.

Today we want to measure ourselves by the right standard which is the holiness of God. For some the holiness of God is one of those uncomfortable attributes of God to study because it reminds us how much unlike God we are. Let's start with a definition. The holiness of God is His intrinsic and transcendent purity, the standard of righteousness to which the whole universe must be conformed to. Holiness is the crowning attribute of God for if God is not holy, then the other parts of His nature and character will be flawed (God's love, mercy, grace, compassion). All of God's character and nature stems from His holiness. Holiness is the starting and ending point of God's being.

God has called us to align our lives to His holiness. Sam Jones was a preacher who held revival services, which he called "quittin' meetings." His preaching was directed primarily to Christians, and he urged them to give up the sinful practices in their lives. Sam's messages were very effective, and many people promised to quit swearing, drinking, smoking, lying, gossiping, running from God and stop doing anything else that was displeasing to the Lord.

On one occasion Jones asked a woman, "Just what is it that you're quittin'?" She replied, "I'm guilty of NOT doing anything--and I'm going to quit doing nothing and start doing something!" Even though she had no bad habits to give up like smoking and drinking, she wasn't actively living to please God and serving Him faithfully, so she was going to quit her bad habit of not actively serving the Lord and being faithful to Him.

I believe there are some today who need to do some quitting! You might need to get rid of some bad habits and bad attitudes that you have been holding on to for

a long time. You might need to stop living a spiritually lazy and lethargic Christian life. God knows who you are and what you need to do. You cannot hide from God! But how is God going to change you and redirect your life? What must happen to you, or take place in your own personal life, in order for God to get a hold of your heart once again and begin to do something with your life that will count for eternity? The answer is very, very simple.

You must experience Life's greatest hour! This is the theme of our study. It's the time when we bow the knee to God's holiness and decide to change our lives and live for Him. The holy man is not one who cannot sin. A holy man is one who will not sin. This is because he has been touched by God's holiness and wants to conform his life to God's holy standard.

Jerry Bridges said:

"It is time for us Christians, to face up to our responsibility for holiness. Too often we say we are "defeated" by this or that sin. No, we are not defeated; we are simply disobedient. It might be well if we stopped using the terms victory and defeat to describe our progress in holiness. Rather we should use the terms obedience and disobedience."

Isaiah experienced life's greatest hour, when he was given a vision of God's holiness and purity.



Isaiah 6:1-8 reveals the hour that changed his life forever: "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the

LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, 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 mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, *which* he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid *it* upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.”

Life’s greatest hour occurs when we experience a new awareness of God’s holiness. It’s a time when we have a new vision and awareness of God’s holy presence in our life. It’s a time when God stirs our hearts afresh and anew because of who He is! It’s a time when all things on earth stands still and we only see God in all of His holy wonder and greatness. It’s a time when we fall before His holy presence so stirred and stunned by His purity that we can do nothing else but give ourselves fully to Him and His purpose for our lives.

Romans 12:1-2 says:

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

This is life’s greatest hour and this is what Isaiah experienced when he saw the Lord! My prayer in this study is that we might pass through life’s greatest hour today! My prayer is that God may do something in your heart like He did in Isaiah’s heart centuries ago. This is not pop-psychology! It is a new awareness of God! God must stir, stimulate, and enflame our hearts once again! God must rekindle the flame in our hearts if we are ever going to amount to anything for Him! The answer to life’s problem is God! The answer to a fresh start in life is seeing God in all of His holiness and saying yes to His holy presence and way for our lives. God wants to get a hold of your heart again and awaken us to His awesome presence. God wants to do something in your inner being.

Dear friends, we need God to stir our hearts once again! We must let go and let God redirect our lives in a new and fresh way as we see Him in all His holiness! This is life’s greatest hour!

Dr. Scofield calls it:  
“Isaiah’s transforming vision.”

What transforms our life? Seeing God and experience His holy and awesome presence in our lives. There are many preachers today who would like to think that they can get a hold of the human heart and change it. They think that they can preach long enough, loud enough, jump high enough, be acrobatic enough, think scholarly enough, and preach skillfully enough to do something. But they are fooled! Every preacher who thinks he can communicate to the heart is a fool. It takes the power and message of God’s holiness to communicate to the heart and to change the lives of people – even His own people. No preacher can change the heart but when God gets a hold of our hearts we will change our lives and live for Him and serve Him and glorify Him.

Life’s greatest hour occurs in our lives when we allow God to break through our hardened hearts of sin and callousness and change us forever. This is what occurred in Isaiah’s life one day when God gave him a vision of His absolute holiness. Life’s greatest hour occurs when we have a fresh glimpse of God’s holiness, when we see God in all of His holiness, and respond in submission and willingness to live for Him or do what is right. Some of you need to start a new journey today. It’s a journey in life that submits to God’s holiness and righteous purpose for your life. When we understand about Heaven’s holiness and Isaiah’s response to this holiness, as recorded in Isaiah 6:1-8, we will apply God’s holiness to our own personal lives.

Why do we develop bad attitudes as Christians? Why do we become cold and calloused, unstable and unusable in God’s work? Why do we drag our feet? Why don’t we have a deep interest in happily doing things for the Lord? Why do we backslide and get ourselves into a spiritual rut? Why don’t we serve the Lord and why don’t we attend church regularly and set the example for our children? Why don’t we change our bad sinful habits? Why are we disobedient to what we know God wants us to do? The whole reason that we find ourselves being disobedient and drifting and not doing what God wants us to do is because we are no longer seeing a fresh vision of God. We are no longer allowing God and His awesome grandeur and greatness to stir our hearts as He once did. We have lost sight of God’s holiness and greatness and majesty and glory. We no longer possess a reverent fear of God and bow to His authority over our lives.

- Have you been responding to God’s holiness?
- Have you become insensitive to God’s character?
- Are you ready to change?
- In what ways can God’s holiness change your life?

Our greatest hour in life is when we experience God’s holiness.

How do we experience God’s holy presence?

### I. We have a new awareness of God’s holiness (vs. 1-4)

This means that we must LOOK UPWARD and have a fresh revelation of God’s holiness as He sits upon His throne in Heaven! And this revelation to our hearts should cause us to change our life, conform our will to His will, and live for Him completely and unreservedly. Isaiah saw the LORD of eternity (the eternal God) who lives outside time as the awesome and majestic God. Isaiah saw God in a holy way and it was this view of God that changed his life forever!

It was life’s greatest hour for him! When Isaiah saw the LORD a new awareness of the holiness of God overcame him and this changed his life forever. Today we must see God in His absolute holiness so that His holy character can strike a chord in our hearts. Dear friend, what we need today is a new vision and awareness of God’s impeccability and holiness. This is what will change our lives forever.

We need to take a trip to Heaven today that will change our lives and make a difference in our lives. The actions of Heaven reveal how we should live and react to God’s holiness.

### A. God’s holiness is revealed - 1

Isaiah 1:1

“The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, *and* Hezekiah, kings of Judah.”

In this verse, God’s holiness was visually revealed to Isaiah but it was much deeper than this. Isaiah experienced an inward revelation of God’s holy character and

being. Verse one reads, "I saw the Lord." The name "Adonai" is a proper name for God that speaks of Him being the sovereign Master of the universe, the One who is "high and lifted up" and exalted in His glory upon the throne of Heaven.

I was in a store called the sharp shopper and a woman was talking to her husband (I said a woman – not a lady) for she was damming God to hell while talking to her husband and daughter. Man curses and damns God to hell in his vulgar speech but Heaven lifts Him up to the highest point possible point in the existence of the universe!

Was this a theophany of God or a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ in all His glorious splendor?

In John 12:41 the apostle John records:

"These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him."

John was speaking concerning the Son of God or Jesus Christ (the second person of the Trinity) when he said these words. This tells me that what Isaiah saw was no doubt a stunning pre-incarnate vision of Jesus Christ sitting on the throne. It was actually Christophany that Isaiah witnessed in life's greatest hour and which changed His life forever. John wrote that this glory Isaiah saw was Jesus' glory. The implication is startling: Jesus is God who sits on the throne sharing the throne with the Father (John 1:18; 10:30; 20:28; Col. 2:9).

Isaiah wrote, "I saw the Lord." A literal vision of God was very rare. This was true in both Old and New Testaments. Isaiah was a rare prophet that was privileged to see a LITERAL vision of God but this is something that we cannot expect to see in our own personal lives today. Why? It's because God is no longer revealing Himself in visions and dreams. The purpose for dreams and visions no longer exists which was to reveal truth prior to the Bible's completeness and confirm truth to His Jewish people.

1 Corinthians 13:10

"But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."

In other words, don't expect God to visibly display Himself on your back porch while you are sitting there on your rocking chair drinking a Dr. Pepper. A man once said

that he had a vision of Jesus Christ. He was sitting on his chair watching a TV show. He said that Jesus came down through the roof and walked around the TV set and then said something to Him. After this Jesus went back up through the roof and his vision was all over.

He then told the audience that he just kept on watching his TV show. Now, let me say two things. First, this man is a liar. Second, no man would act untouched if he stood in the glorified presence of Jesus Christ which is the way He manifests Himself today. He would fall on his face prostrate in front of the presence of God almighty!! He would become as a dead man!

In Revelation 1:17 we read of John's experience when He saw Christ:  
And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Like John, Isaiah was stunned and changed forever when he saw this vision of God (the glorified Jesus Christ on the throne) and when he experienced in his own heart the revelation of God's holiness. We must see or have a fresh vision of God's holiness again! We must see God as the eternal God who is absolutely pure and awesomely majestic who sits in the Heavens. When we see God in this way, we will surrender our lives to Him and start acting in a holy way. We will change our lives.

Our problem today is that we no longer see God in all of His holiness and we no longer allow God's holiness to grab hold our hearts and change our lives. We must have a fresh glimpse and vision of God's holiness today and when we do, we will think differently, live differently, and worship differently (with new zeal and purity). It will change our lives today and forever. After all, this is life's greatest hour! It is the time when we bow the knee to God's purity and His right to rule our lives.

The point of this verse is simple. Seeing a fresh vision of God changes our lives. When it says that Isaiah "saw the LORD" he viewed God with his physical eyes. But I also want you to know that Isaiah was also moved in his inner heart as he contemplated how holy God was in His eternal being. The text in Isaiah 6 will reveal this to us. I want you to understand that Isaiah experienced something more than just an outward vision of God. He had an inward vision of God. This is what we need today if we are going to allow God to work in our hearts and do something wonderful and life-transforming!

We need an inward vision of God's holy character to once again grab hold of our hearts, shake us up, and move us out in service. Isaiah came to know and understand in his own inner heart just how holy, awesome, righteous, and glorious God was and may I say that this is the same kind of vision of God that we need to have today in our present lives. We need to see God in all of His holiness, majesty, glory and greatness so that we will develop a healthy fear and reverence for His presence that will change our lives and cause us to serve Him with all of our hearts!

## B. God's holiness is revered - 2

Isaiah 6:2

"Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly."

We not only need to see God's holiness; we must experience it in our daily lives. We must REACT to it and allow it to change the course and direction of our lives.

The "Seraphims" were reacting to God's holiness. They were situated above the majestic throne of God (this is the setup in Heaven). These are some of the great angelic beings of heaven that apparently have a special emphasis regarding the holiness of God. They may actually sing and lead Heaven in worship that centers on God's holiness. The theme of heaven's worship revolves around God's holiness. All of heaven knows this as they extol or praise God for His absolute holiness and impeccable purity.

Have you been reacting to God's holiness? When we react to God's holiness, we will certainly express reverence before God. You cannot properly react to God's holiness without reverence! Let me repeat this again. You cannot react to God's holiness without reacting in reverence.

God's holiness is revered in four ways.

### 1. We understand its uniqueness with God.

The Bible says that the angel covered his face with his wings ("with two he covered his face") This speaks of reverencing God's unique holiness above all other beings, since we, like the angels, were created by Him. The respectful act of covering their



face reveals that these angels did not consider themselves to be a rival to God and His impeccable holiness. They certainly were not in the same class with God! The covering of their face was demonstrating a deep and profound respect or reverence for God and His unique holiness and majesty as He sits alone upon the throne in Heaven. This is something the church has lost site of with its rock and roll music and irreverence today. The church is no longer covering her face in the sight of God's matchless and untainted purity. They would rather have a party when going to church instead of covering their face in humility and awesome reverence toward God.

The angels shielding themselves from the holiness and divine glory of God signifies that God in His unique holiness has no rival. He is the only sovereign and holy God of the universe whose holiness must be vindicated and defended at all cost. There is no greater, there is no other holy God. He is it! So honor Him.

Isaiah 45:5

"I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me."

America wants us to believe in the false gods of pluralism and syncretism today such Buddhism, Shintoism, Confucianism, and Islamism. However, God and His holiness is unique. God is the only true God that is absolutely pure, flawless, and impeccable in nature. When we understand about the uniqueness of God, we allow Him to change our actions, attitudes, and aspirations in life. We will want to mold our life and character to God's purity. We will want to honor God with all of our heart and actions.

1 Peter 1:15-16 commands:

"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

When we express reverence and respect for God's holiness, like these angels in Heaven, we will stop sinning against Him, stop making lame excuses for not serving God, and start living for Him. We will see our sin as discussing in His presence and repudiate it and forsake it.

We reverence God and His holiness when we understand how unique and awesomely wonderful He is.

## 2. We express our unworthiness before God.

The Bible goes on to say, “with two he covered his feet.” This speaks of unworthiness to stand in God’s holy presence. This also is a very respectful attitude toward God. When people address God as “the man upstairs” and refer to him as their “buddy” or copilot they do not have any sense of reverence for God’s presence and holiness.

This reverent action of the angels (covering the feet) signifies that they were unworthy to stand in His presence, since He is the eternal and holy Creator of everything that exists in the universe – including themselves. They realize that if it were not for God creating them and blessing them, they would not be in existence. They would never be in Heaven and be able to worship Him. When we realize who God is and what He has done for us, we too will express our own unworthiness to stand in His holy and awesome presence.

I was talking to a bitter man after I did a funeral for one of his relatives. He said, “How could a loving God allow all of this suffering and death.” I reminded him immediately that if it were not for God, he would not have ever been born. He would not be able to have one breath of life. Instead of expressing bitterness to God, we should cover our feet and remember that if it were not for God, we would never exist, we would never have opportunity to be born, we would never be able to have life, be saved, and enjoy His presence.

We need a fresh vision of God’s holiness again. Moses was commanded to remove his shoes when he stood in the presence of God’s holiness for the place upon which he was standing was holy ground (Exodus 3:5). Reverence toward God’s holiness produces a sense of unworthiness! But it is unworthiness that results in profound respectful praise to our Creator.

Holy, holy, holy  
Lord, God Almighty  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee

Holy, holy, holy  
Merciful and mighty

## God in three persons blessed Trinity

### 3. We demonstrate unrelenting service to God.

The Bible also states: “with two he did fly.” This speaks of unrelenting commitment and service to God which is born out of deep reverence and respect for God and His ways. The angels were flying out from the throne to obey God.

- Have you taken off to do God’s bidding?
- Have you been following God’s will for your life?
- Are you willing and ready to do what God says?

These angels are performing service for the holy God of Heaven. The holiness of God sparked obedience and service. God’s holiness always motivates us to live and serve Him – do His bidding. It acts as a motivating force to honor Him and live for Him. We must react to the holiness of God in reverence and service. In order for God’s holiness to change us, we must see God for who He is and bow before His holy presence. His holiness must strike a chord in our hearts and when it does we will surrender to His will and do His bidding. We will fly in the direction that God wants for our lives. We will move out for God and His glory. We will stop sinning and start living!

Reverence toward God’s holiness produces service and commitment to God. In life’s greatest hour, we will reverence God’s holiness again. We will bow the knee to Him and place our lives under the rule and reign of God’s holiness.

### 4. We worship with overwhelming devotion toward God.

Isaiah 6:3

“And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory.”

Everything in Heaven revolves around God’s holiness. Look what the angels were singing about as they revered and worshipped God. “Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts.” The “hosts” speaks of the mass of beings within the angelic realms of Heaven. While this statement by the angelic seraphim is not a clear doctrinal statement it may be said that the three-time reference to God’s holiness represents

the Trinity of God's existence. The thrice-repeated reference to God's holiness is unusual and must have a special emphasis on God's existence as One God in Three Persons. The Bible teaches the Trinitarian oneness of God's existence.

Dr. Pettingill used to say:

One and three and three in one – and the one in the middle died for me!

You can be sure that these words "holy, holy, holy" were not accompanied with synthesizers, rock beats, and carnal expressions found in much of the church music that is being played today. Yes, I'm making a war with all forms of rock music (unchristian and so-called Christian Rock Music) because it is the sound of rebellion. This type of music can never be mixed with the holiness of God since God's holiness cannot be reflected in the sound or words of rebellion.

Isaiah 6:4

"And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. "

This verse tells us that in response to pronouncement of the holiness of God, the posts of the heavenly temple's door moved (shook) and the entire heavenly temple was filled with smoke. The entire foundation was shaking and smoke was filling the temple. Smoke and fire has always a sign of God's presence. In Genesis 15:17 we read of the confirmation of the Abrahamic Covenant and it says God manifested His presence in a burning and smoking manner: "behold a smoking furnace (fire pot) and a burning lamp passed between those pieces."

1 Kings 8:10-11 says:

"And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD."

A similar scene is given in Revelation 15:8

"And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled."

Dear friend, God's holiness shakes things, it creates fire, and in the midst of all of this fire and smoke, we can be sure that God wants us to respond to Him! When

we have a new awareness of God's holiness, we will allow its amazing revelation to capture our hearts like never before. We will sense the shaking that comes from His inward conviction, and sense the smoke of His divine presence, and know that we can never be the same again! This is life's greatest hour! We can't walk away from such a revelation of God's holiness without transformation. Holy, Holy, Holy!

There's a story that's told many times about former President Calvin Coolidge, who was a man of few words. He went to church and his wife stayed home. He came home. His wife said, "Well, did you go to church?" He said, "Yes." She said, "Did the preacher preach?" "Yes." "What did he preach about?" "Sin." "Well, what did he say?" "He was against it." The same is true about God. God is against sin because He is holy.

Isaiah said, "I saw the Lord!" (Isa. 6:1). What we need today is a fresh vision of God in all of holiness and splendor. We need God to become real to our lives again! We need a fresh vision of His holy character to come sweeping across our hearts and lives. And when we experience the same inward vision or revelation that Isaiah experienced, we also will pass through the greatest hour of our lives – having an awesome awareness of God's holiness, repent of known sin, and follow the will of Jesus Christ for our lives.

What would you consider to be your greatest hour? What event took place in your life that you consider to be the most important event – perhaps it was your marriage, receiving your college degree, advancing into the job position that you always wanted? Many times what we think is life's greatest hour is not what God thinks our greatest hour in life should be as a Christian. Life's greatest hour does not take place when we graduate from high school or college or when we are married. Life's greatest hour does not take place when we succeed in a business or reach the top of the corporate ladder. Life's greatest hour does not take place when we see that first baby come forth from the womb of our wife.

Life's greatest hour occurs when we have an inward revelation and vision of God in our hearts. It's when we sense how holy and majestic God is and respond to His holy character in transcendent wonder, healthy fear and committed service. Nothing can take the place of the touch and stirring of God in the soul and the sense that Someone is there who we are accountable to, who cares for us, and who wants us to please Him with our lives.

Christian friend, this may be the greatest hour of your life! This is not some kind of fanatical and sensational preaching. It's not some Info commercial telling you that you can lose 20 pounds in just one week. I'm telling you what the Bible says. Today may be life's greatest hour for you. Isaiah experienced it and so can we today! And it will be greater than any other hour that you have ever experienced. Do you know why? It's because you can receive a fresh understanding and revelation of God's holy character in your heart and life and allow God to stir (rekindle) your heart as He stirred the heart of Isaiah.

Isaiah said, "I saw the Lord!" (Isa. 6:1). He saw the LORD in all of His glorious holiness and wonder! May it be true in your life today! May you allow the greatness of God's character to be revealed to your own heart through the ministry of God's Spirit. This can be life's greatest hour for you if you allow God's holiness to break through and grab hold of your heart again. It will be life's greatest hour when you let go and let God's holiness take control of your life and stir your heart so that you might go on and serve the Lord with great zeal.

A. W. Tozer said:

"The man who has met God is not looking for something—he has found it; he is not searching for light—upon him the Light has already shined."

Isaiah saw the LORD! When we see the Lord we will possess a new awareness of God's holiness (the light shines upon us) like never before and we are so overwhelmed with His holy presence that our lives are never really the same again.

Frederick William Faber wrote  
How dread are thine eternal years,  
O everlasting Lord!  
By prostrate spirits day and night  
Incessantly adored!  
How beautiful, how beautiful  
The sight of thee must be,  
Thine endless wisdom, boundless power,  
And awful purity!

Our greatest hour in life is when we experience God's holiness.

## II. We sense a need to repent and find pardon before God's presence (vv. 5-7)

This means that we must LOOK INWARD and see the sinfulness, wickedness, wretchedness, and disobedience in our hearts and lives!

Isaiah 6:5

"Then said I, 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 mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

These verses actually reveal the results that God's holiness has upon our lives. When we see a fresh vision of God's holiness a proper and Biblical reaction should be to repent of all our sins and rebellion. Mine eyes have seen the king! Isaiah realized, there is no other king! He knew that Jesus was the king of kings and that he had to bow in repentance before Him. People say to Christians, "You had better get help." Well, that may be true but first of all you had better repent of your terrible and wicked sins! We need to do business with God!

### a. The need for repentance.

Let's define repentance.

#### 1. Repentance is a revelation of our sin.

Isaiah said, "woe is me, for I am a man undone; because I am a man of unclean lips." This is true repentance! "Woe is me" is not a "feel good" religion. This is not a Joel Osteen self-esteem message. This is not New Evangelical correctness. The expression "woe is me" is a sense of crying and lamentation over one's sins. It means that you know the finger of God is pointing at you for your sin and that you are a sinner that has offended God's holiness. You have no other way out but repentance.

Vance Havner said:

"We are trying to get young people to volunteer and say, 'Here am I,' before they have ever said, 'Woe is me!'"

You can't truly serve God, if you are not willing to repent of your known sins. We can't serve God without first repenting of our sin! We must be right before God before we can really be used by God. God demands repentance and contrition.

Isaiah's word "undone" has the basic meaning of being "cut off." This means that Isaiah senses his sin cuts him off from God's holy presence, fellowship, and favor. He realized that impurity couldn't be accepted before the holy God of the universe. God never accepts sin! The holiness of God drives the skeletons out of the closet. It reveals our sins and we know that sin breaks our fellowship with God.

I think the pragmatic worldly church of today needs to hear this! God does not accept sin! God is so holy (absolutely flawless) and for this reason no sin could ever be acceptable to Him. In fact, sin separates God from His people. Sin breaks fellowship between God and His people.

Isaiah 59:2 says:

"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."

In life's greatest hour, when we have a fresh inward vision of God's holiness and presence, we will at once sense our own sin and unworthiness in light of His glorious holiness. We will identify our sin and repent. We will call sin for what it is - wretchedness and wickedness in the site of a holy God. In these verses we see how God's holiness demands a response from our lives! God's holiness demands that we face our sins and see them for what they are – a stench in the nostrils of a holy God! We can't fellowship in God's holy presence without responding to His absolute holiness. God requires a repentant response to His holy character! Such was the case with Isaiah.

Repentance means that we take sides with God! We are broken and crushed over our sins for we see them as a hideous horror and awful evil in the sight of God's holiness. When we are truly repentant we will want to be freed from our sins and desire a new way of living. Repentance is a heart response to God's holiness.

Repentance is essentially a change of mind and heart toward our sins. When we repent, we think about sin differently for we sense how dreadfully horrible our sins are in the sight of a holy God, and we fall before the Lord in the dust of our own



human existence and say as Isaiah said, “Woe is me! For I am undone, I am a man of unclean lips.” When Peter saw the miracle that Jesus did He recognized afresh and anew that he was standing in the presence of God! And what did Peter say?

Luke 5:8 records:

“When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”

Isaiah said, “I’m undone. I am a man of unclean lips.” Is this your life today? Have you seen your flaws in the light of God’s holiness? Have you faced your laziness, sinfulness, and poor excuses? In life’s greatest hour you will stop trying to cover up your sin! You will lay out prostrate before God and allow God to turn you inside out and drive the sin out of your life. You will admit that you have been trying to hide sin in your heart thinking that the King will somehow miss it. But He can’t! He is the King and He is holy! We must come to the place where we will say: “Lord, I’ve done wrong, I’m not doing right, and I repent of my sin before your holy presence. I am a horrible sinner in your sight. Oh Lord God of heaven and all holiness - forgive me as I turn back to you and give my life to you. Now this is repentance!”

A great preacher of yesteryears once said:

“Some things are not debatable; there is no other side to them. There is only God’s side.”

When we see God’s holiness this will be true. Repentance begins with “I saw the Lord” (vs. 1) and ends with “Woe is me” (vs. 5). We will come to our end and exclaim: “Oh God, I’ve sinned. I’m not where I should be. I am a sinful man but I’m going to make it right with you God, the God of all glory and splendor, and majesty, and holiness.”

## 2. Repentance is a revelation of the King.

Repentance is when we take sides with the King and allow Him to rule in our hearts and lives again! Isaiah said, “mine eyes have seen the king” (Isa. 6:5). Isaiah calls the LORD the king or ruler of all the hosts of heaven and the entire universe. This means that when we repent we sense that He needs to be our personal King and ruler over our lives. When our spiritual eyes capture the revelation and wonder of the King’s holiness we will never again be the same! When we see King Jesus, we

will hate our sin and AT ONCE abandon in it in light of His holiness, and submit to the King's rule over our life.

Isaiah possessed a new awareness of God's holy presence as the eternal King of the ages who wants to rule our lives and the revelation stabbed his heart, stunned him, and stirred Him to the place of repentance. This means he took sides with God, got rid of the sin and disobedience in his life, and allowed the King to reign in his life again. The question I ask you today is this: Is Jesus king of your life today? Will you allow His holiness to capture or captivate your heart so that you will repent of any known sin and crown Him king of your own life?

"King of my life I crown Thee now,  
Thine will the glory be."

Repentance over our sins can only take place when we see the King in all of His matchless holiness and repent of our sins before Him! We need to see the King before we speak those unkind words. We need to see the King before we commit some carnal sins, before we rebel against God, before we attend an unholy place, or before we make a wrong decision.

1 John 1:7 informs us:

"But if we walk in the light (light of holy living), as he is in the light (light of God's radiating holiness), we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Beloved, we need to walk in the light of the King's holiness and allow Him to rule our hearts and lives. Walking in the light of God's holiness means we will respect, reverence, and honor His holiness in our everyday lives and decisions that we make. When I see the King, Jesus in all of His holiness, I will repent over my sinful attitudes toward others, the worldly and carnal music that I have been listening to, the pornography I have been viewing, my disobedience to His clear commands, or anything that is separating me from living a holy life.

1 John 1:7 says that we are to walk in the light instead of run from the light. Bugs living under a rock run from the light when the rock is lifted. Are you running away from the light of the King's holiness? Don't be like the bugs under the rock. If we are truly repentant, we will want to walk in the light of the King's holiness and

surrender to the King's ways over our life. We will want to change our life and conform our lives to the King's standard instead of our own. When Isaiah saw the Lord he knew that he had no choice but to walk in the light of the holiness of the King.

“This is the King's command: that all men, ev'rywhere,  
Repent and turn away from sin's seductive snare;  
That all who will obey, with Him shall reign for aye,  
And that's my business for my King.”

Isaiah 55:6-7

“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

God offers pardon to His people who stray from Him. And this is the offer to repent of one's sinfulness in light of God's holiness and then return to the Lord for wondrous fellowship and blessing in life.

**b. The result of repentance.**

After repentance comes pardon or forgiveness! The result of repenting our sin before God is forgiveness.

Isaiah 6:6-7

“Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, *which* he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid *it* upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.”

This symbolically enacts Isaiah's cleansing and forgiveness of sin after he confessed his sin to God. Isaiah hears these reassuring words: “thine iniquity is taken away” Now sin was no longer a barrier to Isaiah's service. When God's holiness melts our hearts we will confess our sins and have our iniquities forgiven and purged and stop living the way we used to live.

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

What will it take to really change our lives? It will not be the emotional tear-jerking story of a preacher that changes your heart and brings you into the greatest hour of your life! It will be a fresh inner heart revelation of God’s character that changes your life. Listen folks, in life’s greatest hour, when the holiness of God stabs our hearts and stirs our souls once again, it’s then that things will really begin to change in our lives! This is because we repent about our laziness, lack of service, sinful living, and begin to move out for God in new freshness and zeal. Do you remember this old saying?

“Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.  
All the king's men and all the king's horses,  
Couldn't put Humpty Dumpty together again.”

There's a lot of theology in this old saying. You just can't repair a broken egg, and you can't repair a broken life, but God can. If you will acknowledge your sin, His holiness, and Kingship over your life, then God will put your life back together. God is trying to speak to some of your hearts today. The King is trying to get through to you today. You might think you are okay, but when you see the King in all of His holiness, you will melt before His presence and realize that there are some things in your life that need to be made right. When this happens to us, we will experience life’s greatest hour in our lives. We will get right with God and allow Him to be king of our lives once again.

Our greatest hour in life is when we experience God’s holiness.

### III. We naturally surrender to God’s perfect will (vs. 8)

This means: We must LOOK FORWARD and see what God wants us to do with our lives. Isaiah cried, “Here am I, send Me” (Isa. 6:8).

God requires a repentant response to His holy character (vs. 5-7). But He also requires an obedient response to His holy will (vs. 8). The holiness of God should stir us on to greater service for the Lord. It should get us out of the lazy chair. After

having a fresh glimpse and vision of God's holiness, we will want to surrender to God's perfect will for our lives! "Here am I." There will not be any negotiations or deals with God. Only surrender!

As Andrew Murray once said:  
"There will be absolute surrender!"

This is life's greatest hour! It is the hour when you in glad and grateful surrender sit at Jesus' feet, bow prostrate before Him, ready to do all of His bidding!

It's the time when you say:

"All my tomorrows, all my past,  
Jesus is Lord of all.  
I've quit my struggles, contentment at last!  
Jesus is Lord of all.  
King of kings, Lord of lords,  
Jesus is Lord of all;  
All my possessions and all my life,  
Jesus is Lord of all."

What does God want you to do? Maybe He wants you to follow Him in believer's baptism and become a greater follow of His. Maybe He wants you to become more dedicated to church and committing your family to God's House. It may be that He wants to change your attitude toward someone. Perhaps He wants you to go to the mission field somewhere?

This is life's greatest hour! It's the hour when God gets a hold of our hearts as young people, middle-aged, and even older saints. It's the hour when we have a fresh awareness of God's holiness, which causes our hearts to become broken over our sin, and when we give our lives back to God. The influence of sin keeps us from doing God's will! But after we repent and are cleansed (vs. 5-7) we are ready for service!! Isaiah cried in verse eight, "Here am I; send me."

Mark this down, when we have a new revelation of God's person, being and holy character, when God speaks to us in our inner heart, we will not have to be pushed to serve the Lord! We will not have to be prodded to do the work of the Lord. We

will not feel like doing God's work is a burden that we must bear. No, we will happily say, "Here am I, send me."

God does not say to us as Moses said to Aaron, "Here am I, send Aaron." No, God wants you to do His bidding and will for your life, not someone else! For instance, God wants you to go to your next-door neighbors and witness to them. He wants to send you to the church choir to sing, to the church kitchen to cook, to Sunday School to teach the children. We are to say, "Lord, send me! I'll do it! I really will do it! Whatever you want me today. I'll do it. I won't drag my feet. I'll do it. I will serve You as my King and Lord. I will serve Thee because I love Thee!"

Send me! This means that the Lord is more interested in people than in programs! Send Me! This also means that you don't send a computer and guitar that you donated to missions. It means that you don't even send your money! Isaiah said, "Send Me." This means that you will make the decision to do the work! In life's greatest hour, when God in all of His holy wonder and majesty freshly stirs our hearts, we will find ourselves surrendering to God and volunteering for His service. We will find ourselves giving our lives wholeheartedly to Him!

A volunteer for Jesus,  
A soldier true!  
Others have enlisted,  
Why not you?  
Jesus is the Captain,  
We will never fear,  
Will you be enlisted  
As a volunteer?

In life's greatest hour, when God stirs the heart afresh and anew, and when the heart surrenders to God, it's then that God will change the course of our lives, call missionaries to the field and convict preachers to follow His Word. When God stirs the heart the heart responds to Him in surrender and active service. There can be no other choice! There can be no other way to find fulfillment in life.

Here is the point. Don't run from God if God is calling you into full time Christian work on the mission field or to become a faithful preacher of His Word. A young

man who was wrestling with a decision about his future exclaimed, "I ought to let God have His way, but I can't seem to yield or even know what He wants for me." The day before, he had cut some letters out of construction paper and pinned them on his wall.

The motto read LET GOD. He looked at it again and again as the turmoil in his heart continued. Finally, he decided to spend more time in prayer. When he rose from his knees, he was still perplexed and feeling utterly defeated. Upon leaving the room, he slammed the door disgustedly, saying, "My own desires are just too strong. I guess I can't LET GOD." When he returned some time later, he found that the letter D had fallen to the floor when he had slammed the door shut.

To his surprise the reminder now read, LET GO instead of LET GOD. Suddenly the message was driven upon his heart and he exclaimed: "I will, I will, Lord Jesus!" he cried. Then and there he renounced his selfish desires and offered his life completely to the Lord. God had wanted him to surrender his whole life to God and LET GO of his own selfish ambitions in life so He could in return let God work in his life. We must first let go (surrender) and then we can let God do His work in our lives. We must let go of our will, way, sin, life – only then will we find God's true way for our lives.

In life's greatest hour God stirs our hearts. We repent of known sins and God rekindles the smoldering fire so that we surrender to Him and launch out for Him in new service and work. "Here am I, send me!" "Take me dear God! I'm yours! Use me Lord - not a part but all of me!"

All of me not a part but all of me,  
All the heart and soul of me,  
Jesus, I surrender.  
I believe, Lord, help my unbelief,  
On the altar now I lay all I am today.  
So use me, Lord, use me anywhere at all,  
Though my palace may be great or small,  
Let me fill it gladly.

Take my life be it poor or be it grand,  
Let me live it by Your plan. Shape it with Your hand.  
As I am I come to Thee without one plea.

Only that Thy saving blood was shed for me,  
All of me through the ages yet to be,  
I surrender Lord to Thee,  
I surrender all of me.”

The lesson we learn from Isaiah 6 very simple: We need a fresh stirring! As God’s people must open our hearts to His holy leading and way and then we must be willing to follow the Lord when God moves in our hearts. May our prayer be that God will once again move in our hearts and lives in a new and fresh way! May our prayer be that God would stir our hearts once again and bring us into life’s greatest hour when we see God in His glory, holiness, and majesty and respond to this new vision of His character upon our hearts with repentance and revitalized service! To many, holiness means stained glass windows, sacraments, and candles. These things are not holiness; they are religious trappings. God wants us to respond to His holy character – not to false expressions of holiness.

It should be noted that many times we allow the cares of this world (Mark 4:19) to take away our hearts from God and His way for our life. But when God stirs the heart we can be sure that something is going to happen! We can also be sure that all of our repentance, transformation, and service will be real and genuine. God can do something for you that no other person can do.

Isaiah said, “I saw the LORD” and “Mine eyes have seen the king.” Isaiah met with God! He encountered God! Do you need to meet with God today? The greatest hour in a person’s life is when he meets with a holy God in REPENTANCE and absolute SURRENDER to His will. It is this hour that changes everything! It is an hour that changes the course of one’s life. It’s hour that is looked back to which brought a new start (a fresh start) in one’s Christian life. This is life’s greatest hour!

It is the hour when the unseen things about God suddenly break upon our soul and for the first time we see ourselves, as Isaiah saw Himself, and we cry out to God for cleansing and consecrate ourselves fully to His cause. It is the hour when the wonder, majesty, and a reverential fear for God humbles our heart! It is the hour when you realize your own unworthiness before God. It is the hour when you repent of your sin and get right with God knowing that He has called you to a greater life of service and dedication for Him. It’s the time that you RESPOND to God’s holiness and seek to live a holy, consecrated life to God. It is the hour when you say, “Here am I, send me.” I’ll do what You want me to do dear Lord, I’ll go



where You want me to go!" It's the hour that changes everything forever! This is life's greatest hour!

Someone said:

"Every man is as holy as he really wants to be. But the want must be all-compelling."

1 Peter 1:15-16 again reminds us:

"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

Samuel Chadwick said this about God stirring our hearts:

"Spirit-filled souls are ablaze for God. They love with a love that glows. They believe with a faith that kindles. They serve with a devotion that consumes. They hate sin with a fierceness that burns. They rejoice with a joy that radiates. Love is perfected in the fire of God."

"I saw the Lord!" "Mine eyes have seen the King!" No person can every see Isaiah's God and King and be irreverent again before His presence. No person can see God as the holy King without confessing and surrendering to Him. Will we see Him today? Will you see the King in all of His splendor and holiness? Beloved, will you allow God to reveal Himself to you today? Will you respond to the revelation of His character that is being impressed upon your heart? Will you repent over your sin! And will you render service unto Him! This could be life's greatest hour for you! Let God break through your heart.

Life's greatest hour is a time when we see God in all of His holiness, when we give everything to Him and come away a different man, woman, boy, or girl. It's a time when we sense His special calling and consecration for our lives. It's an hour that in some sense changes everything! Let us hide in His holiness today and allow God to bring us to repentance and renewal.

"Hide me Lord in Your holiness,  
Every sin I now confess,  
Praise to You, forgiving Lord.  
Hide me in Your holiness.  
Hide me in Your holiness."