

SURRENDER

In the 6th chapter of Isaiah, the prophet tells about when he saw the Lord. "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, 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.

Isaiah seeing God in all His glory says, "Woe to me! 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." With that declaration, one of the seraphs flies to him with a live coal in his hand and touches Isaiah's mouth and says, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

I like this passage. In one word, it is summed up as surrender, unconditional surrender. Isaiah raises the white flag but doesn't try to negotiate with God. He realizes in light of whom God is that he is ruined. He needs mercy. We need mercy. And God atones for his sin just like he has for yours and mine.

After his sin was atoned for, Isaiah then hears God say, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And Isaiah volunteers, "Here am I. Send me!"

How do we know God's plan for our lives? How do we know that He is calling us? How can I hear His voice? I am sure every follower of Christ has faced these questions. Here are some 'steps' we can see from this passage as

1. Are we in his 'temple'? *Have we entering in His presence to seek and worship Him?*
2. Have we *seen* Him? Have we realized the scope of His glory and majesty? Have we acknowledged He is God and we are not?
3. Do we have any unconfessed sin? If we regard sin in our hearts, He will not hear us. Is there sin that is keeping us from hearing from Him? Maybe it's an action. Maybe it's an attitude. Maybe its thinking 'it's about us when it's about Him.
4. Have we surrendered to Him? We need to take up our cross and follow Him. We need to be willing to say we will follow Him believing His will and plan are best. Are we willing to follow Him no matter what?
5. Do we believe in who He is and how He views us? Read Jeremiah 11-13
6. Are we allowing Him to transform us by renewing our minds? Romans 12:1-2. Are our plans merely the world's plan?
7. Is He calling us? God's call often is subjective more than objective. Even in this passage, it seems Isaiah volunteers more than has a clear call like say Paul and Barnabas in Acts 13.

Here's some ways to test and approve what His will is...

- a. Does it conflict with scripture? It does it can't be His will for us.
- b. Does this desire persist or even increase as we draw closer to Him? He makes the desires of His heart the desires of our heart. Something that we desires to us fade away as we draw near to Him.
- c. What does wise counsel say? God may use others in your life to help you make this decision. Find an objective person who will listen to you and listens to the Lord.
- d. Make a pro-con list to allow you to weigh out the decision.

Ultimately following the Lord is still a step of faith. All the questions may not be answered. Without faith it's impossible to please Him so He may allow you to make a decision to a cloud. Sometimes the door clearly opens and sometimes the door opens like at a hospital for instance – when we step towards it. Before the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, it parted. But when they crossed the Jordan River, the leaders had to step into the water first.