

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

Wholeness and the Heart of God

### Speaker:

Peter Privitera

### Date:

November 29, 2020

### Scriptures:

Isaiah 6

**Theme:** If you would know the heart of God, you must be made whole in the presence of God.

**Introduction:** Isaiah's call to be a prophet is quite famous, as is his response: "Here I am! Send me." We often hear that call used in settings where someone is calling for others to go and to show compassion to the hurting. But that was not the context of Isaiah's call. In fact, his call was given in the context of God's holiness and of what it means for us to be whole before the holy God.

We can understand Isaiah's call before God under 2 points:

### 1. Disintegration before wholeness (1-7)

As Isaiah is summoned before God, he is undone by the presence of the Lord. He is a man of unclean lips, and he is overwhelmed by the thrice-holy God.

He is standing before the Almighty, who is surrounded by his glorious servants.

The majesty of God is so great that he cannot even fully comprehend it.

But the Lord is merciful to Isaiah. He sends an angel to cleanse his lips with a burning coal, to take away his sins.

The temple itself was shaken, as it was some 7 centuries later at the death of Jesus (Matt 27). But Jesus' death was not for his own atonement—it was for us.

### 2. Hardness before restoration (8-13)

After his encounter, Isaiah is ready to serve the Lord however he wishes.

The Lord sends out Isaiah with a message; but the purpose of the message is judgment and devastation. Israel will receive the consequences of their rebellion.

Faithful proclamation of God's word brings definition. It does not always produce a 'happy' result; but it does result in death (through rejection and unbelief) or in life (through humility and faith).

Isaiah asks how long the judgment will endure. It will remain until everything is utterly devastated and hope appears to be lost.

However, the final verse offers hope: "The holy seed is in its stump." This may refer to the remnant of Israel at that time; but it ultimately refers to Jesus Christ.

Anyone who comes to Christ in faith will be made whole in union with him.

Christians are new creatures *in him*.

### Questions:

1. What does your love for God reveal regarding your knowledge of his holiness? Of your sinfulness?

2. How has receiving God's mercy affected your priorities in life?