



GLIMPSE OF GOD

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“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 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. And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.” – Isaiah 6: 1-10

As children of God, we all need a vision, the vision of God; vision to give direction, meaning and fulfilment to our existence. And so, the Bible says in Proverbs 29: 18 that, *“Where there is no vision, the people perish.”* Vision

is very important, as men only go as far as they can see. For us to go far in life and not stumble therefore, we need good, God-given, long-range and far-reaching visions.

However, the price of God-given visions is quite high that not many people are prepared to pay. The prophet Isaiah could not have a vision of God until the year king Uzziah died. If we also must be given visions from God and receive that little glimpse of His glory then, every *'king Uzziah'* in our lives must die! The Uzziahs of our lives represent whoever or whatever is king and is reigning on the thrones of our hearts. These are the people and things competing with Christ as Lord over our lives. They block our view and hinder us from receiving the true visions of God.

King Uzziah in our lives could be our familial bond; it could be our jobs, positions, financial status or material wealth. All these are capable of competing with God for attention in our lives and hinder us from hearing the Lord or catching a glimpse of His glory. This is why we are advised in Scripture that, *"...if riches increase, set not your heart upon them."* (Psalm 62: 10). The Lord Jesus Christ described a heart that is full of the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches as a soil that is full of thorns. The word of God cannot grow in such hearts as they are constantly choked with unnecessary cares and worries of life. We therefore need the help of God to manage His blessing in our lives. (Matthew 13: 22).

We need God's wisdom to manage our human relations too, so that nobody eventually becomes an idol in our hearts. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself, clearly declared to us that, *"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."* (Matthew 6: 24). He clarified further when He said, *"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple."* (Luke 14: 26.) Too strong attachments to people can rob us of our visions of God.

The death of king Uzziah in our lives then would mean dying to self. The Apostle Paul said, *"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for Excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ."* (Philippians 3: 7-8.) He put it this way in 1Corinthians 15: 31: *"I die daily"*.

Again, the death of king Uzziah may mean the loss of property. The young, rich ruler that once indicated his willingness to follow Christ in Luke chapter eighteen eventually took offence the moment he was counselled to go sell all he had and come follow Him. Christ knew that this man's strong attachment to wealth was hindering his vision of God. He needed a spiritual surgery and the only way to do that was for him to dispose of the things blocking his view of God. The young man walked away and never returned to the Lord. Many are still making the same mistakes today.

The death of king Uzziah in our lives could also mean the loss of a close friend or the loss of a career. We mourn when we lose our close friends. It is only at such times that we can receive the real comfort of God, as it is written: "*Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.*" (*Matthew 5: 4*). On the other hand, Peter, James and John had to forfeit their thriving fishing business to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. They were thereafter privileged to be with Him on the Mount of Transfiguration, where they saw a glimpse of His glory. Many of the other disciples too left their lucrative careers to follow His vision.

Even, Paul, the Apostle who later followed the Lord, forsook his high office as a Pharisee to answer the call of God. Little wonder then that, according to him, he excelled more than the rest in his visions of God. The call of God on these men made heavy demands on their lives. Many today have taken to pastoral duties only as the other option out of unemployment. If they were not pastors, who would have employed them and what would their worth be? That is why we now have more hirelings than pastors in the Church. People with no definite calling; serving only for what they can gain or grab. Dear friend, what is the cost of your faith and what really have you forsaken to follow the Lord?

Whichever way we look at it, Isaiah's vision has three dimensions to it. Firstly, it was an upward vision, then, inwards and then, outwards. It was also a vision of height, depth and breadth. It was a vision of God, self and the people around him. It was a vision of 'Woe' whereby he saw the corruption and depravity around him that led him to make confessions. He then cried, 'Lo' as he called on God for cleansing. God also commissioned him by commanding him, 'Go'. It was a complete vision.

The prophet Isaiah received a total vision of God. He saw the holiness of God (vs.1-3), the hellishness and helplessness of man (vs.5, Ps. 51: 5 & Jer.

17: 9.) and the hopelessness of life (vs.8, Rev. 5: 1-4). We all need this type of vision. This type of vision however, is only given of God. We cannot receive the vision of God when our hearts are fat, our ears heavy and our eyes are shut. We surely need the help of the Holy Spirit of God if we must catch a glimpse of Him. For, *“It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing”*. (John 6: 63).

We need Isaiah’s type of vision. This vision breaks (vs.5). After breaking, it purges, cleanses and purifies (vs.6-7). It sanctifies and consecrates (vs.8) and afterwards gives burden and passion for the lost souls around. When we receive such a vision from God and we are thus commissioned, then, we shall truly have a mission.