To know HIM and to make HIM known

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Service Times

	9:45am 10:45am
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	e Groups nnigan nham ynolds

Wednesday: Bible Study......7-8:00pm Weekly Newsletter of the Kanawha City Church of Christ

TREAK

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SERVING GOD WITH JOY

"And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here I am! Send me." - (Isaiah 6:8)

I spent last week in Beckley at Surprise Valley Youth Camp. Our theme for the week was: "Here am I! Send me." based off of the passage from Isaiah. This is a verse that many of us know quite well. We have often times even sang of this verse. It is a wonderful passage that recounts Isaiah's experience as he was commissioned as a prophet and his excitement towards fulfilling that calling.

Isaiah was excited to fulfill his calling, but he wasn't always like that. Just a few verses earlier he had proclaimed: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" - (Isaiah 6:5). Isaiah saw himself as lost and unclean. What was it that changed Isaiah's demeanor?

Isaiah 6:1 says, "In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up..." Leading up to verse 5, Isaiah had seen and experienced God. His vision of God had made him keenly aware of how lost and unclean he was. This lead him to say, "Woe is me!" Then, something happened in Isaiah 6:6-7 that changed everything: "Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: 'Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.'"

Isaiah moved from "Woe is me!" to "Here I am! Send me." because he had experienced the grace of God in the cleansing of his sin! Once Isaiah had seen God and been made aware of His cleansing power, Isaiah was able to serve God with excitement. Sometimes it can be difficult to be obedient to God's commands or be excited to serve in the ways He calls us. It will remain difficult if we just try to push through and be obedient just because we know we are supposed to. Let me suggest that we try approaching obedience and service in the same way as Isaiah.

First, when we experience those times when we are struggling to stay faithful, then we need to step back for a moment. Find a way to see and experience God. We can see and experience God's presence all around us. The seraphim said in Isaiah 6:3, "...the whole earth is full of his glory!" If we will only look, we can see God all around us. Second, remember what God has done for us. We have experienced the cleansing grace of God. Romans 5:8 says, "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

I believe we will increase our excitement for serving God, and therefore make it easier to serve, if we will learn to respond to God's goodness and grace rather than simply responding to His commands. So, let us find ways to experience God's presence and be reminded of His grace. Then, respond by obediently and joyfully serving the God of mercy and grace.

"Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you." - (1 Samuel 12:24)

