

## Living Out Your Purpose Part 1

Isaiah 6:1-8

Notes

Purpose is defined as- 1: the reason why something is done or used; the aim or intention of  
2: the aim or goal of a person; what a person is trying to do, become, etc.

Purpose is important. Purpose points us in a direction. Purpose provides us a foundation. Purpose gives us drive.

Purpose provides for the proper use and service of a thing.

When something is used outside of its intended created purpose, mistakes can happen.

When I was a kid, we had a go cart. My dad bought a scrap go cart that did not run, to use as parts for the one we had. The scrap go cart did not have a seat, no floorboard, no gas or brake pedal, and no roll cage.

My dad is an excellent mechanic, so he naturally got the scrap go cart to run. But there were still several problems. The go cart did not have a floor, nor seat, nor roll cage, nor gas or brake pedals.

That did not seem to worry my dad one bit. He got some scrap rough cut 2x12s and made a seat. He told us to just hold our feet up and not worry about the floorboard. For the brake and gas, he attached a line to the throttle cable and mounted a level on the side of the seat. You didn't have brakes, you just had to correctly judge how far away your intended stop was and lower the throttle in time.

Because this go cart was not purchased, nor designed at this time, to be a functioning go cart, what followed was a series of bad wrecks, including my brother jumping over our ditch and landing out in the highway with traffic.

Why did these mishaps take place? Because we were using something outside of its intended purpose.

Tony Evans says, "We are God's creation, and He dictates to us why we exist and can tell us what we are designed to do. He gives us our purpose. If we operate outside of our reason for being, that's when we experience problems. Walking in the purpose God designed for us is how we fulfill our unique reason for being" (*Tony Evan's Book of Illustrations*, 241).

As individuals created in the image of God we are created with purpose.

This year we want to focus on our purpose. What is our purpose?

Our purpose is to glorify God and we do that through exalting him, being equipped in him, and engaging the world with the gospel.

This series and this particular sermon is titled, “Living Out Our Purpose.”

This week we will look at our purpose from Isaiah 6:1-8. We will notice three principles regarding our purpose.

We are created to exalt Christ, be equipped in Christ, and engage the lost world with the gospel of Christ.

We are beginning this series here because we will be launching our new Next Steps discipleship pathway in February.

We desire every member, every person in our faith family to fulfill their God-given purpose by exalting Christ, being equipped in Christ, and engaging the lost world with the gospel of Christ.

We want to provide you with tools and opportunities to grow and succeed in these areas.

As a church we will focus on these over the next three weeks.

If you are member here, we want you to be taking your Next Steps to fulfill your purpose.

Let me ask you this morning- do you feel like you are fulfilling your purpose in life?

I don't mean living a problem free life, but living out your purpose of glorifying God by exalting, equipping, and engaging?

As we look at Isaiah's call this morning, we will understand how encountering the holiness of God regularly will enable us to fulfill our purpose.

*In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. <sup>2</sup> Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called out to another and said,*

*“Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts,  
The whole earth is full of His glory.”*

*<sup>4</sup> And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. <sup>5</sup> Then I said,*

*“Woe is me, for I am ruined!  
Because I am a man of unclean lips,  
And I live among a people of unclean lips;  
For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”*

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. <sup>7</sup> He touched my mouth with it and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven.”

<sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!” <sup>9</sup> He said, “Go, and tell this people:

## **LIVING WITH PURPOSE BEGINS WITH ENCOUNTERING GOD’S HOLINESS AND RESPONDING BY EXALTING HIM**

Before we can examine our purpose, we must begin with holiness, God’s holiness.

*In the year of King Uzziah’s death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. <sup>2</sup> Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called out to another and said,*

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Uzziah was king of Judah and died from leprosy in 739BC. He reigned as king for 52 years.

The year of his death is when God called Isaiah to service. In calling Isaiah to service, God showed Isaiah his majesty and his glory.

Let’s look at this scene together because it truly is wonder filled.

Isaiah is either transported to heaven or he has a very detailed vision of heaven.

In this state this is what he sees.

Isaiah sees God sitting high on his throne in the heavenly temple. Your text may read, “lofty and exalted.” These are similar terms meaning to be high and lifted up.

God is on his throne, over all creation. He sits atop all of creation, and no one is his equal.

From the throne Isaiah sees the robe of God, noticing the train of the robe, is filling the temple. The length of the robe signifies importance and honor. The robe of the Lord fills the temple displaying his honor and majesty.

From here, Isaiah, sees and hears seraphim singing.

Seraphim are a class of angels which seems to be created for worship.

In this heavenly temple, which is the perfection of the earthly temple (Heb. 9:24) the seraphim are worshipping God.

These angels have six wings. Two of the wings covered their face because they dare not look directly at the full glory of God. Two wings covered their feet, the lower parts of their body which signified their lowly humble state. And with two wings they flew.

As they flew, they sang a song, “Holy, Holy, Holy” is an antiphonal phrase in Hebrew which simply means that something repeated three times shows its value and priority.

The angels were declaring God’s holiness, his otherness, and his separateness from all others.

Think about this. While this scene happened thousands of years ago as Isaiah saw it, these very same angels are still singing this same song declaring God’s holiness right now!

Holiness is the essence of God’s nature. His holiness reveals how different he is from the rest of his creation.

And not only is God holy, but the whole earth is also full of his glory. The whole of creation displays the glory of God.

The singing of the angels causes the very foundations of the temple to tremble and shake.

**Why is this scene important for Isaiah and us? It is this scene; it is encountering God’s holiness that causes Isaiah and us to understand who God is an when he/we begin to understand who God is then he/we learn who he/we is and what he/we was created for.**

In response to God’s holiness, Isaiah can only exalt.

Isaiah says, “*“Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”*”

When Isaiah encounters God’s holiness he can only respond in recognition of his sin and repentance.

Isaiah says, “I’m a man of unclean lips and my nation is full of unclean lips.” The lips are a symbol of the heart.

Isaiah is immediately aware of his unworthiness and the fact that he does not belong.

Isaiah was not struck by his own humanity, but by his own impurity.

When Isaiah encounters God’s holiness he sees the full wickedness of his own heart.

Maybe the problem for many of us and the reason why we think so highly of ourselves is that we have not encountered the holiness of God.

In the Beatitudes Jesus says in Matthew 5:3, “*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*”

What Jesus is proclaiming, Isaiah is experiencing. The poor in spirit are those who recognize their sinful position before a holy God and are fully dependent on his mercy and grace.

They see God’s holiness and cry out. And in crying out to God we are actually exalting him.

As we recognize God’s holiness it causes us to simultaneously repent and worship.

You may be that person here today that has never had an encounter with the Lord. Today is the day you do. Today is the day where Christ will be presented to you in truth. You will have a chance to say “Yes” to Christ and “No” to the world. You will accept the Christian life and leave behind the selfish, fleshly life. Today is the day that you can be cleansed from sin. It is up to you to decide whether you will accept life in Christ and be filled with the Holy Spirit, or whether you will live the life you want to live, and the world wants you to live and actually lose your soul.

Let me ask you this morning. Have you encountered the holy God? Do you recognize God's holiness in your life? Are you exalting him through repentance and worship?

Living with purpose begins as you exalt Christ in your life above all else.

## LIVING WITH PURPOSE CONTINUES AS WE ARE EQUIPPED WITH FORGIVENESS AND GROW IN THAT FORGIVENESS

*<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. <sup>7</sup> He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."*

Isaiah encounters the holiness of God and in that moment, he responds in exaltation by simultaneously recognizing his own sin and the majesty of God.

In response to the recognition of his sin, Isaiah is then equipped with two things:

- Forgiveness
- The Spirit

One of the angels takes a coal from the fire and then touches Isaiah's lips.

Remember we said earlier that the lips were a symbol for the heart. This tells us that upon the recognition of the glory of God and his own sin, Isaiah was granted the gift of forgiveness of his sins.

We also see that repentance while simple, is often painful.

Repentance involves understanding our sin in light of the holiness of God. Coming to grips with the depth of our sin is not an easy process, but it is necessary for forgiveness to take place.

Being equipped to walk in Christ, serve Christ, and grow in Christ begins with the granting of forgiveness.

God cleansed the heart of Isaiah and God continues to cleanse the heart of all those who call out to him.

Has your heart been cleansed by Christ?

When the coal touched his lips, his guilt was removed.

The removal of guilt means the punishment for sin will not be exacted.

His guilt can no longer keep him from God's presence. Sin no longer separated God and Isaiah.

The same is true for you here today. Our guilt in sin separates us from God. Christ comes to offer us redemption and equip our hearts with the free gift of forgiveness.

The second way Isaiah is equipped is through empowerment.

We see throughout the Old Testament and even in Isaiah's mandate from the Lord in the rest of this chapter that God called out men and women in the Old Testament and equipped them for the work by empowering them with his Spirit.

To be sure, the Old Testament empowering of the Spirit is not the same as the New Testament indwelling and filling of the Spirit, but the principle is the same-God equips the called.

God equips the called with forgiveness and he equips the called with the Spirit.

We cannot pursue our purpose without encountering a holy God, in all his glory and being radically changed by his holiness.

Only God's holiness can show us the depth of our sin and the greatness of our need.

We identify our sin by viewing God's holiness. The holiness of God acts as a magnet, pulling our sin to the surface of our heart so we can see our uncleanness.

Then we can admit it and in that moment of repentance we are forgiven and filled.

In a few weeks we will discuss in depth more about being equipped, but for now know that we cannot pursue our purpose in this world outside of being equipped with forgiveness and the Spirit.

Why not? **We cannot purpose our purpose outside of Christ.** Our purpose is to know God and make him know. That is the reason every single one of us are created.

Every person is to fully reflect the glory and holiness of God and we cannot do that in our sin because our sin has broken the image of Christ in which we are created.

We must come to Christ to be forgiven and filled.

Are you trying to find your purpose? Are you forgiven? Have you been filled?

Look no further than Jesus.

The Lord of glory is also the Lord of grace. Instead of punishing the sinner as we deserve, he cleanses us so that we are purified.

Is there something in your life that needs to be purified today? Have you been afraid to admit it for fear of what God will do? Beloved, he already knows and no matter how bad it is, his grace is ready to forgive and cleanse you.

He desires to restore and renew you so that you may be fortified and filled to be used to shine his glory.

### **LIVING WITH PURPOSE HAPPENS AS WE RESPOND TO GOD'S HOLY FORGIVENESS BY ENGAGING IN THE MISSION TO TELL OTHERS OF HIS HOLINESS SO THEY MIGHT BE CLEANSED**

*<sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" <sup>9</sup> He said, "Go, and tell this people:*

Upon encountering the holiness of God, Isaiah recognizes and repents of his sin.

In doing so, God, in his grace, cleanses Isaiah from his sin, forgives him and empowers him with his Spirit.

But why empower? What's the reason Isaiah, or any of us is filled with the Spirit of God?

God had a job for Isaiah.

The Lord, the one on the throne calls out to the one who has received his grace and asks a question: Who will go and tell the word of the Lord?

Isaiah, after encountering God's holiness and being cleansed of his sin, knowing who God is and what God has graciously done for him, he can only respond with, "Here am I. Send me!"

If we are going to be honest, most of us would not be so quick to respond that way, even knowing what God has done for us.

Why do I say that? Because that is how we respond every single day.

God has redeemed us, cleansed us, and forgiven us, and he has filled us with the Spirit.

God calls each of us to go and be disciple makers. He doesn't tell us we have to go across the world. He does not require we give every dime we have. He doesn't tell us we can't go on vacations or enjoy his blessings.

God simply calls us to be disciples who make disciples. Jesus tells us in Mt. 28:18-20 to share the forgiveness we have experienced.

And you know what? Most of us do not do that well.

We go day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year, never telling anyone of Jesus and never pouring into other believers what Jesus has taught us.

Let that sit a minute.

Check this out. This is amazing! The same Jesus that gives us our marching orders in Mt. 28:18-28 is the same Jesus who gave Isaiah his marching orders.

Look at John 12:41, "*These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.*"- John is talking about Jesus!

As we will talk about and develop our Next Steps Discipleship Pathway here at First Baptist, we want every member, every single person to be engaged in missions and ministry in some meaningful way.

Who shall the Lord send? Who will go for Him? Is it only the called preacher? Is it only the Sunday School teacher? Only the missionary on the field? Is the specially anointed? The best and the brightest? The persons' who have gift of speaking? Of leading? Of organizing?

Is it only those who shall answer the call? By no means! God has called each and every person who has experienced the gift of salvation to a lifetime of service and ministry. Did you know that you have a ministry, or should? Did you know that you have a service to offer, or should be offering?

Jesus has all power and authority, He commissioned those who are His disciples, that is you and me, to go and make disciples.

That is ministry and service in a nutshell. Every one of us, young and old alike are called to be disciple makers. Every one of us are to be investing in the life of someone else, teaching them the things of Christ, drawing them closer to God, leading them in the things of the Lord.

How many of us can say we are doing that? Beloved, I truly believe that the reason the church in America is not growing as it should be is because the church has forgotten that each member is important and essential to the work of the Kingdom.

Disciplemaking is hard, messy, and draining, but it is worth every breath we have.

We all, who have encountered the holiness of God, who have experienced the grace of his forgiveness, are called to engage the world with the gospel.

## CONCLUSION

Living out our purpose begins by encountering the holiness of God and responding in repentance and faith.

The call has been issued. For the lost, the call of salvation echoes loud. **God is pleading with you, as well as I to lay down your life and take upon Jesus.** To give up the world and gain life; this life is not an easy life by any stretch of the imagination, but it is a life full of grace, peace, and most of all Christ. Would you respond positively to Christ today?

Are you living out your true purpose?

If ever there was a person who could have offered Jesus a reason, Robert Reed would be that person. His hands are twisted and His feet are useless. He can't bathe himself. He can't feed himself. He can't brush his teeth, comb his hair or put on his clothes by himself. His shirts are held together by Velcro. He has cerebral palsy. This disease keeps him from driving a car, riding a bike and just going for a walk. But it didn't keep him from graduating from high school and then from college with a degree in Latin. It didn't keep him from eventually teaching at the college level. And it didn't keep him from going on 5 overseas mission trips. And it didn't keep him from becoming a missionary to the country of Portugal. He moved there, rented a hotel room and began to study Portuguese. He found a restaurant owner who would feed him after the crowd was gone and he found someone who would tutor him in the language there. Then he stationed himself daily in a park where he gave out brochures about Jesus. Within 6 years he led 70 people to the Lord. Why? Because he chose not to offer any excuses. In kindness I would ask you, what's your reason for not living out your purpose today?

You are the person who can make a difference at your school. You can change the culture of your family. You can shine a light at your place of work. You can invest and benefit the life of another as you walk with Christ and disciple another. You can do all these things through Christ; all you need to do is respond to Him.

Begin to live out your purpose today.