

# How to Change from the Inside Out

*The ONE Thing That Changes Everything, Week 2 of 5*

## HEART

When I first held my first child, she was so precious in my hands. And I remember thinking, "I'm not ready for this! I have so much to learn and so much to become and so many challenges ahead!" God prepared me for each challenge as time went on. And that's the way life is after an encounter with God.

**God has far greater blessings planned for us in eternity than we're ready for, and he matures and equips us through personal worship.**

We're not ready for life or for eternity. But when we encounter God, he gets us ready for one step and one challenge at a time.

## HEAD

### **Isaiah 6:1-13**

1 It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. 2 Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. 3 They were calling out to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!"

4 Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke. 5 Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD of Heaven's Armies."

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. 7 He touched my lips with it and said, "See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven."

8 Then I heard the Lord asking, “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?” I said, “Here I am. Send me.” 9 And he said, “Yes, go, and say to this people, ‘Listen carefully, but do not understand. Watch closely, but learn nothing.’ 10 Harden the hearts of these people. Plug their ears and shut their eyes. That way, they will not see with their eyes, nor hear with their ears, nor understand with their hearts and turn to me for healing.”

11 Then I said, “Lord, how long will this go on?” And he replied, “Until their towns are empty, their houses are deserted, and the whole country is a wasteland; 12 until the LORD has sent everyone away, and the entire land of Israel lies deserted. 13 If even a tenth—a remnant—survive, it will be invaded again and burned. But as a terebinth or oak tree leaves a stump when it is cut down, so Israel’s stump will be a holy seed.”

Isaiah’s encounter with God was his initiation into prophetic ministry. It was a preparation moment, for more than he was prepared for on his own.

## 3 Results of an Encounter with God

### 1. A Closer Walk with God

An encounter with God teaches you something ***about him***.

Self-confidence is great, considering that God made a good thing when he made you. But having an elevated view of God is even better.

### 2. A Cleansed Heart

An encounter with God reveals some things ***about yourself***.

Isaiah was a “man of unclean lips,” and there’s something about encountering God personally that strikes us with a deep sense of our own unworthiness.

But notice, the angel comes with a coal from the "altar" and cleanses his lips, searing away the stain of his sinfulness. From the place of sacrifice (the cross), we are cleansed and freed to walk forward with a cleansed heart.

I need a clean heart daily!

### 3. A Clear Purpose

An encounter with God changes your perspective on *the rest of the world*.

Isaiah left the place of worship on a mission! He was to go deliver God's message to the people whom God loved. Our time of worship each day can remind us that, in everything we do, we're living on a mission to other people!

I believe that everyone needs purpose, and God is the author of the purpose we desperately need. There's such a huge difference in the walk and the spirit of people who have a purpose and those who don't.

#### HANDS

In your daily quiet time with God, start with worship. Start with praise. And watch how God feeds you with a fresh vision of himself, of yourself, and of your purpose and mission to the rest of the world.

#### HEART

**What needs to change about your life? It starts on the inside, at the level where we relate to God in our innermost being.**