

WHAT GOD WANTS TO KNOW: *WHO WILL GO?* (A God Who Sends)

- **God Calling**



- **Historical Background**



In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

² Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: with two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another:

**‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.’**

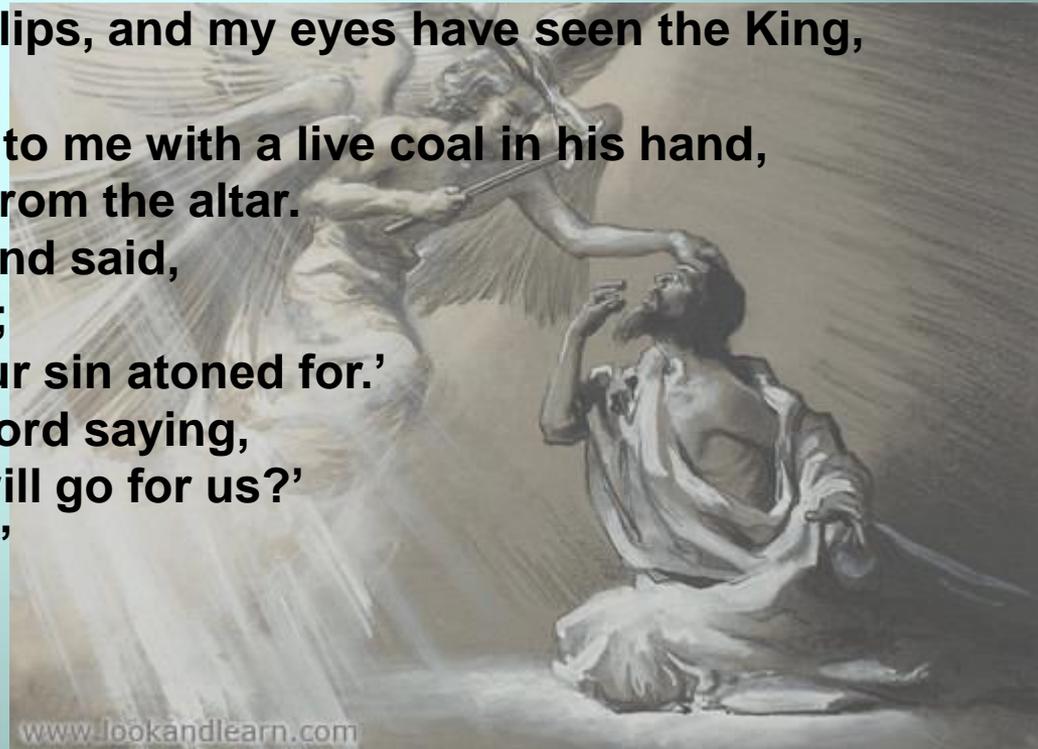
⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵ ‘Woe to me!’ I cried. ‘I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.’

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar.

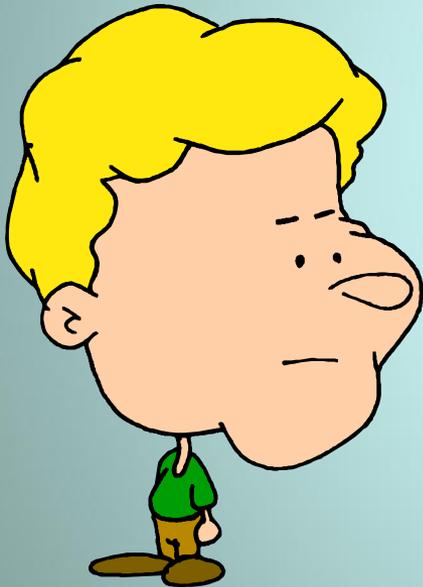
**⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said,
‘See, this has touched your lips;
your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.’**

**⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’
And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’**



Six Stages of Christian Growth

Stage #1 – We Are Concerned



Isaiah 5...

Woe to those who rise early in the morning to run after their drinks...

Woe to those who draw sin along with cords of deceit...

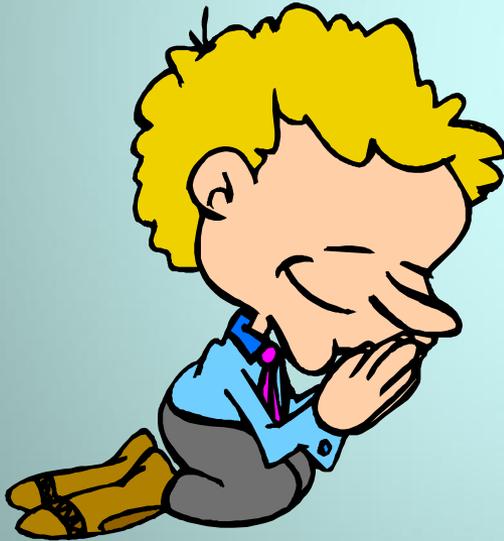
Woe to those who call evil good and good evil...

Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes.

Often, our greatest encounters of God begin with our greatest needs and concerns.

Six Stages of Christian Growth

Stage #2 – We Consult



Isaiah is in the temple worshipping.
He has a vision of God.

- High and exalted
- Seated on the throne
- Seraphim declare: Holy, holy, holy!

*It's a wonderful experience to be able
to consult the one, true God!*

Six Stages of Christian Growth

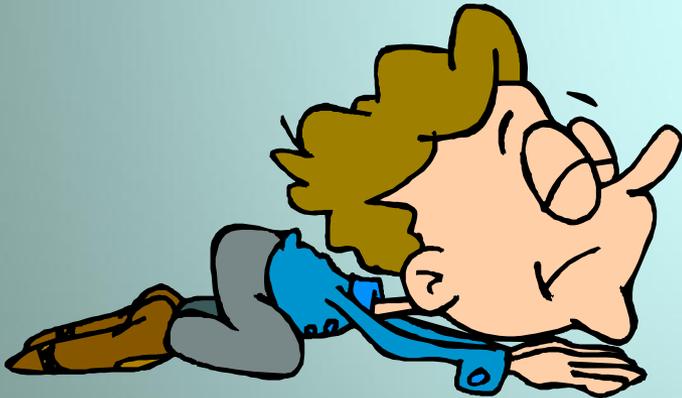
Stage #3 – We Confess

**Woe is me! I am ruined!
I am a man of unclean lips!**

Isaiah 1...

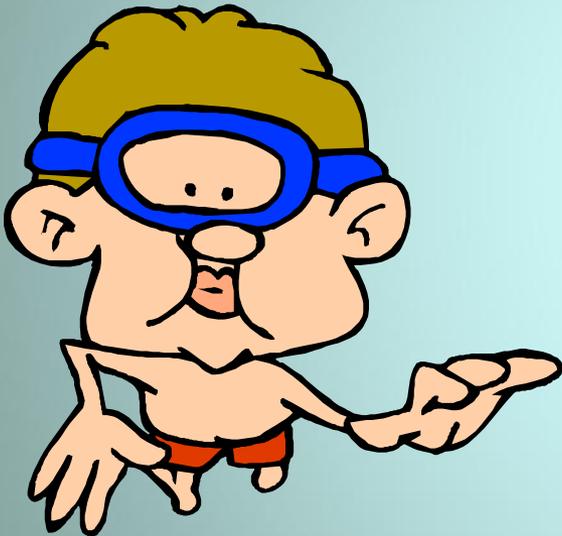
The multitude of your sacrifices - what are they to me?' says the LORD.

**...Stop bringing meaningless offerings!
Your incense is detestable to me. Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are full of blood!**



Six Stages of Christian Growth

Stage #4 – We Are Cleansed



**Unclean = immoral and unfit for service.
Represented by lips and thereby the heart.**

God's angel touches Isaiah's lips with a hot coal = cleanses him of sin and guilt.

God takes the initiative!

- **Isaiah could do nothing to make himself worthy to stand in God's presence.**
- **Neither can we.**

Six Stages of Christian Growth

Stage #5 – We Are Called

Finally we come to the question:

- *Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?*

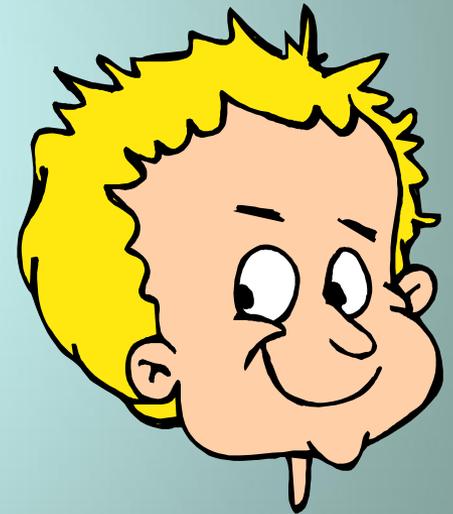
But we couldn't start there. We had to go through those first four (4) stages.

- concern, consult, confess, cleanse.

How is it, Isaiah could reply: “**Here I am. Send me!**”?
It was only after he: mourned for the sin of his people, then went to God about it, then got cleansed, himself. That's the sequence.

- You don't invent your own calling!

What is God asking YOU?



Six Stages of Christian Growth

Stage #6 – We Cooperate

There is a change seen in Isaiah.

- Initially, cowering from God.
- Now ready for service.

If you are NOT excited about the prospects of obedience and surrender, then return to the earlier stages.

- Let God deal with you.
- Become fit for service!

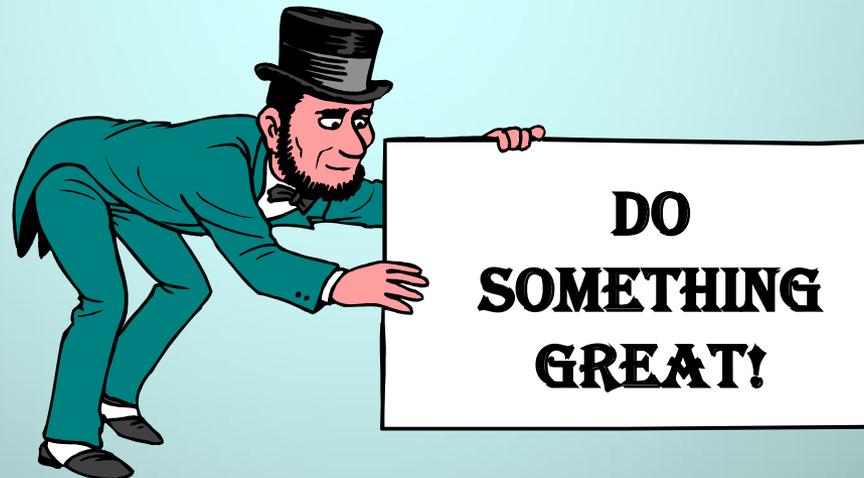
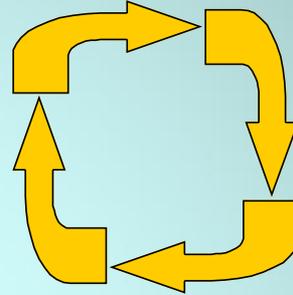


SIX STAGES OF AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN GROWTH



Conclusion

- It's a cycle
- A Lesson from Abe



COMMUNION – 1 Cor. 11

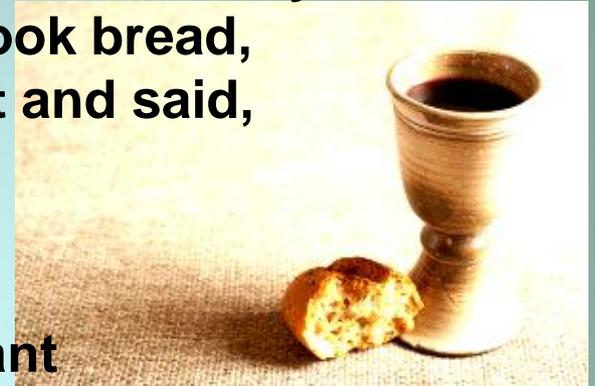
23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.’

25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’

26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

27 So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.

28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. **29** For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.



BENEDICTION

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Rom 12:1-2)