

Holy Habits

Part 1: Are You Ready?

Isaiah 6:1-8 (NIV)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. "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." Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." 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!"

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

C.S. Lewis: "The church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became man for no other purpose."

10-year study by Lifeway Christian Resources – studied over 2,000 mature Christian leaders and 4,000 churches around the world to find out what has to happen in order for discipleship to take place.

FIVE TRUTHS ABOUT DISCIPLESHIP

1. Discipleship is intentional.

From the study: "Those who are maturing desire to mature. They engage in discipleship opportunities and seek Christ in their daily lives."

2. Reading the BIBLE matters more than anything else.

From the study: "Reading the Bible is the number one predictor of spiritual growth. Bottom line, those who read the Bible grow... what is concerning is that although 87% of Christians surveyed say they want to be a Disciple only 19% read the Bible daily."

3. The discipline of BIBLE ENGAGEMENT impacts every other discipline.

From the study: "Some spiritual disciplines do not impact all the others. As an example, some one who serves may not be generous in giving, but engagement in God's Word impacts every other discipline. Someone who lets the Word dwell in them grow in all areas such as generosity, service, sharing their faith, confessing sin, praying, etc."

4. Involvement in GROUPS matters a lot.

"Those who are in some type of Bible Study small group, Sunday School class, etc. are much more likely to display markers of spiritual growth than those not in a group."

5. There is a deep connection between DISCIPLESHIP and EVANGELISM.

"Disciples share the gospel. Those who are growing in Christ tell others about Him. Those who are not growing in their faith are much less likely to articulate the Good News of Jesus."

Three calls from this passage of scripture:

- **A Call to WORSHIP**

Isaiah 6:1-4 (NIV)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the

Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

Key Truth: Putting God FIRST in your life is the beginning of WORSHIP.

Luke 10:27 (NIV)

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind..."

• **A Call to HOLINESS**

Isaiah 6:5-7 (NIV)

"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." Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Key Truth: Holiness is not PERFECTION, it is becoming more like JESUS daily.

Ephesians 1:4 (NIV)

For he chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

• **A Call to SERVICE**

Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

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!"

Key Truth: We were not saved to SIT and SOAK. We were saved to SERVE.

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.