



**Sermon, Sunday June 2, 2024**

## **“How To Experience the Fullness of God?”**

**SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 6:1-8** <sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said, “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.” <sup>4</sup> The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> And I said, “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” <sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup> The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” <sup>8</sup> 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!”

### **Introduction: Isaiah experienced fullness**

Today is the second Sunday after Pentecost. Today’s text is about the calling of the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah had a vision one day in 739 BC, the year King Uzziah died. At that time, the country was divided into southern Judah and northern Israel. Isaiah was active in Jerusalem, southern Judah.

In today’s text, Isaiah 6:1 says, **‘the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty.’** This expression often appears in the Book of Revelation (Revelation 4:2). This verse expresses the majesty of God as a throne on which a king sits. In the second half of verse 1 of chapter 6, it is said that he saw the temple filled with **‘the hem of his robe filled the temple.’** This is a metaphor for Isaiah's experience with God.

Furthermore, Isaiah sees Seraphs, angels who assist God by his side. (Isaiah 6:2) According to Isaiah's vision, the Seraphs covered their faces with two wings and their feet with two wings. And it flew with the other two wings. This depicts how even angels have no choice but to be ashamed of their existence in front of the great and precious God. The Seraphs (angels) sing in verse 3: **‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’**

In this verse, three important concepts of ‘God experience’ appear. It is holiness, glory, and fullness. Have you ever had this kind of experience of encountering God? I had this experience 30 years ago at a church young adult group retreat. I had an amazing and mysterious experience while attending a prayer meeting in a small church in a rural area surrounded by mountains. I am not a Pentecostal pastor who emphasizes speaking in tongues, but at that time I experienced speaking in tongues and the joy, peace, and fulfillment that the Holy Spirit gives me.

There are four elements in our religious life that guide us to live our religious life well. They are scripture, tradition, reason, and experience. Of all these, nothing can take precedence over the Bible, but experience in a life of faith helps us live a life of faith with confidence.

So, what do the three important concepts of ‘God experience’, holiness, glory, and fullness, mean?

### **Body: Holiness, Glory and Fullness**



First, let me tell you about the meaning of ‘holiness’ in the Bible. The original meaning of the word holy in the Bible means separated. In other words, the Holy Spirit is a spirit separated from the worldly mind, and the saints, a holy group, are people separated from the people of the world. In today's text, Isaiah expresses through the song of the Seraphs the fact that God is completely different from the world, that is, he is an absolute Other.

However, people in the 21st century, dominated by secular values, find the word ‘holy’ uncomfortable. Because for many people, holiness does not come to their reality. All the things we consider important in everyday reality are directly related to money or power. In many cases, the good job we want to have depends on whether it will make a lot of money. Please do not misunderstand that I am saying this to deny people who work hard and do their best to make money.

We cannot live ignoring worldly life. When we have money, fame, and health in our daily lives, we are relatively more likely to be happy than people who do not have those things. However, if we do not have the experience of God's holiness, our insides become poor and shabby.

I once traveled to the steppes of Mongolia and camped in a ger. The memories of Mongolia remain very clear in my mind. Stars poured down over my head in a very dark night sky. Beyond the prairie horizon, north, south, east, and west, there was only a dark sky and stars. I realized how humble my existence was amidst the amazing scenery created by nature, and at the same time, I felt joy.

However, the experience of God's holiness does not only occur in the face of great natural phenomena such as deserts, storms, tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanoes. We can experience holiness even in small daily life and things. In fact, we can experience this in the bread and fruit we eat, as well as the tea, juice, and coffee we drink. The problem for us is that we are insensitive to experiencing such things.

To fully experience ‘God’s holiness’ in our lives, we must have a heart that fears God. To fear God is to approach the Creator with a fearful and trembling heart. So, what does ‘glory’, another important concept in God’s experience, mean?

In fact, God's glory is an expression directly connected to God's holiness. When we come to know God's holiness, God's glory comes into our eyes. Also, when the glory of God enters our eyes, we can feel that God is a holy being.

However, sometimes people misunderstand the expression ‘God’s glory’. The glory of God does not mean that we conduct extravagant sacred worship ceremonies in church. The Bible tells us what God truly desires. That is, God wants the world he created to be full of life.

As you know, Christian worship is a sacred ceremony that gives glory to God. To provide worship that pleases God, we must know what fullness of life is. Additionally, we must be able to capture the fullness of life through worship.

To handle these things well, we must remember and be confident that God the Father will create and complete the world with His transcendent power. Additionally, we must remember and be convinced that the son Jesus liberated us from sin and death through the cross and resurrection. Furthermore, we must remember and be confident that the Holy Spirit guides us to enjoy the life given to us as life.

Therefore, to experience the fullness of life in our lives, we must have a clear awareness and experience of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Additionally, we must be able to contain and reveal this through our lives. This is what gives glory to the Lord.

Now, let me talk about ‘fullness,’ which is the last of the important concepts of God’s experience. In today’s text, the expression ‘fullness’ appears three times. Perhaps Isaiah experienced this fulfillment when he saw some sights of the temple.



The fullness mentioned in today's text refers to a state of joy, freedom, and peace without having to fill it with anything else. So, the hymn of the Seraphs in today's text, **'the whole earth is full of his glory.'** means that only through God can one reach the fullness of life and complete salvation.

However, many people who do not believe in the Lord may find this claim nonsense. This is because they think that fulfillment can be experienced when the things they want are accomplished, not through God. So when they are young, they focus on money, spouses, children and hobbies. They also have wonderful success stories about their lives. And they experience a certain level of satisfaction as they achieve what they hoped for. However, humans cannot experience the fulfillment of our souls through this satisfaction alone.

Please don't forget! The breadth and depth of grace that the Lord has given us through love and mercy does not change depending on our circumstances. Those who believe this and live with confidence are Christians.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! Do you know what the prophet Isaiah confessed after experiencing the fullness of God? Verse 5 of the text says: **'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'**

People who experience the fullness of God, without exception, see their own existence. In today's text, after Isaiah's confession that he is a sinner, there is a scene where one of the Seraphs brings a live coal from the altar with a pair of tongs in the temple to Isaiah's lips. And the Seraph says, **"Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed, and your sin is blotted out."** (Isaiah 6:7). Then Isaiah responds, **"Here am I; send me!"**. What does this conversation between the Seraph and Isaiah mean?

This means that anyone who has experienced the fullness of life and learned what human existence is cannot avoid the sense of calling to spread the word of life.

### **Conclusion: Dwell in the glory of the holy God and the fullness of life.**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! Now let's summarize today's message. The gospel that we have heard, read, and realized through the word of revelation is not the dead word of 2,000 years ago. It is a word that is alive and breathing in our daily lives today.

Christians are people who experience and live the prophet Isaiah's experience of God in our daily lives. Luke 2:14 describes the angels' praise announcing the birth of Jesus as follows: **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."** Additionally, Colossians 2:9-10 says: **"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority."**

Based on these words, we must be able to tell the world that Jesus Christ, who revealed the glory of God, is the source of the fullness of life in our lives. May we all enter the glory of the holy God and the fullness of life. **Amen!**

