

# Weekly Word

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By Mary Ruth Stone

## Devotion

### The Fire of God in Cleansing

The presence of God and the fire of God elicit a sense of uncleanness and intense awe within human beings. The prophet Isaiah, presumably a righteous man, entered the temple of God and had a vision of Divinity unlike anything he had experienced before. God's glory was revealed in a visible presentation. Seraphim hovered above God's throne crying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" (6:3). The vision included shaking and the voice of God and smoke.

Immediately Isaiah recognized his unworthiness to be part of such a setting. He cried: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts" (6:5). A cleansing by fire occurred. God sent a seraphim to touch Isaiah's lips with a hot, burning coal carried with tongs from the altar of God. He touched Isaiah's lips, and they were cleansed.

The seraphim spoke: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged" (6:7). After the searing cleansing, Isaiah was able to deliver the message of God to the people.

Today some people who attend church on a regular basis find it tempting to be cavalier about the presence of God. Some people who easily accept the mercy, grace, and forgiveness of God are tempted to interpret such gifts as license to sin. Isaiah's experience reminds us that God is awesome and holy. In His presence sin is exposed.

Thank God, the blood of Christ cleanses us from sin. We need to approach His holiness with reverence and repentance. The fire of God still purges unclean lips.

## Scripture

". . . I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. . . . And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. . . . Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it . . . (excerpts Isaiah 6:1-7).

## This 'n That

*"Grace has no equal and its value goes far beyond imagery, history, and tradition." — Jennifer Rothschild*

*"So what are God's qualifications to be used by Him? . . . God is looking for devoted hearts, repentant hearts, hearts that are willing to be emptied of self and filled with Him."*

*— Sharon Jaynes and Lysa Terkuerst*

## Prayer

Father,

Cleanse me so I might be used of You. Amen.

Washed,  
Mary Ruth