

## WHY SERVE GOD? JANUARY 3, 2021

### JOSHUA 24:15

Throughout history many have encountered supernatural encounters with God that transformed their lives and ignited within them a passion to serve God.

- Noah encountered God in a conversation and was moved to build an ark by faith.
- Abraham encountered God in a vision and left all to serve God.
- Moses encountered God at a burning bush and received an assignment that altered the course of two nations. He was called the servant of Jehovah. **DEUTERONOMY 34:5** This was the highest title of tribute in the Old Testament.
- Isaiah saw the Lord and the revelation of His holiness moved him to service: clarity, conviction, cleansing, commission.
- Saul of Tarsus encountered Jesus on the Damascus Road and his life was transformed from being an enemy, to becoming a servant of Christ: clarity, conviction, cleansing, commission. **ROMANS 1:1, ACTS 26** He mentions his encounter **20** years later.
- **120** encountered God in an upper room and were moved to serve God boldly in a hostile environment even if it meant death.
- My first encounter with God in October of **1976** was getting saved. Another occurred in June of **1979** when an audible voice said I would be the next pastor of this church.
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An encounter with God involves God revealing Himself, communicating His plans, giving specific assignments or imparting His power and wisdom to someone. In Isaiah's encounter we discover four things: **ISAIAH 6**

1. Clarity – seeing an attribute of God or a situation through His eyes. **V3**
2. Conviction – God exposing our personal hang ups, sins or inadequacies. Isaiah's unclean lips; Moses had a speech impediment; Paul was a murderer. **V5**
3. Cleansing – God dealing with hang ups, sins and inadequacies. This may include cleansing and equipping those He calls. **V6-7**
4. Commission – Authorized to carry out a duty. **V8-9**

### ACTS 9

1. Clarity – **V5** – Who are you?
2. Conviction – **V6** – What do you want me to do?
3. Cleansing – **V7**
4. Commission – **ACTS 26:16**

We can't make God give us a special encounter, but we can position ourselves to have an encounter by:

1. Seeking God with all our heart. **JEREMIAH 29:13**
2. Surrendering our will to God. **MARK 14:36**
3. Being transparent. **PSALMS 32:1-8**
4. Getting quiet. **PSALMS 46:10**
5. Standing against doubtful thoughts. **PSALMS 3:1-5**
6. Reminding God of His promise. **JEREMIAH 33:3**
7. Sacrificing praise consistently. **HEBREWS 13:15**