

## “A Lap With Isaiah”

Hebrews 12:1; Isaiah 6

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.”*

Hebrews 12:1

In several places, the Bible pictures the Christian life as running a race.

In the huge crowd envisioned in Hebrews, they are witnesses TO us, not just witnesses OF us.

If Isaiah were running beside us, he would tell us:

→We can encounter God even and especially in the seasons of our greatest pain.

*“In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.”*

Isaiah 6:1

*“God whispers to us in our pleasures; speaks to us in our conscious, but shouts in our pains.”*

C.S. Lewis

→When we see God clearly, we see ourselves clearly.

*"Then I said, 'Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.'" Isaiah 6:5*

→ God removes my past so He can redeem my future.

*"Then one of the seraphim flew to me, with a burning coal in his hand which he had taken from the altar with tongs. And he touched my mouth with it and said, 'Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is forgiven.'" Isaiah 6:6-8*

*"My best thought on my best day underestimates God's goodness, greatness, [forgiveness and pardon] by at least 12.3 billion light-years."*

Mark Batterson

*"Seek the Lord while He may be found;  
call upon him while he is near.  
Let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous person their thoughts;  
and let them return to the Lord,  
and He will have compassion on them, and to our God,  
For My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are My ways higher than your ways,  
and My thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:6-9*

→ God invites me to take the next step.

*"Then I heard the voice of the lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'"* Isaiah 6:8