

(Audio) Vision

by Leonard Ravenhill

This sermon emphasizes the need for a deep spiritual awakening and urgency for prayer and repentance. It highlights the importance of surrendering to God, recognizing the impending judgment on nations and individuals, and the critical role of vision in disturbing complacency and inspiring action towards holiness and mission. The speaker challenges listeners to confront their own sinfulness, seek purification, and be willing to be sent by God for His purposes, emphasizing the significance of personal holiness and a genuine relationship with God.

Duration: 58:41

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1, Psalm 139:23, Romans 12:1, James 4:8, Matthew 28:19

Topics: "Spiritual Awakening", "Urgency of Prayer and Repentance"

Description

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Transcript

Do you think the lights can't go out in America? God was married to Israel, he divorced Israel. She's being kicked around like a football and God in heaven hasn't bothered about it too much. Do you think he didn't walk out from America? Do you think a few of our dollars are holding the kingdom of God together? Our feeble prayer meeting is oiling the machinery of the church of God? Brother, sister, let me tell you tonight, if you and I knew what time it was on God's clock, maybe we wouldn't sleep at all this week.

Because God only puts up with nations as with individuals so long and then judgment comes. I'm saying that not just to you older folk, but particularly to the younger folk here. Vision is a disturbing thing.

I think most of us need a bed of thorns, a broken glass. You say this is severe, sure it is. What do you think, I'm asking you to become a Boy Scout? I'm asking you to wake up, I'm asking you to put on the whole armor of God.

I'm telling you that if we don't soon concentrate in prayer, we'll soon pray in concentration camps. Have your choice. Millions of lost men and women.

And you don't legalize homosexuality and you don't have women's lib and all the rotten things going on now before God before very long will pour out judgment upon us. And I'm quite convinced of this, the answer to America's problem is not, N.O.T. is not in the White House. The answer is in God's house.

Nineteen times in the history of the world man has built what he called a permanent civilization and nineteen times that civilization has fallen down and ours is going to collapse before very long because we've rebuilt it with the debris we got from another generation. We've rebuilt it because there's still corruption in the human heart and there is no cure for selfishness and arrogance and pride. And if God in mercy doesn't rent the heavens and send us revival, soon we'll have the bloodiest third world war that will make the second world war look like a garden party.

Men used to laugh at the bible when it talked about destroying a quarter of the earth. We can do that, never mind God. We've got enough atom bombs and hydrogen bombs to blow a quarter of the earth away into powder.

We don't need the arm of omnipotence, we need our perverted brains to do it. Time is desperately short for those millions who still sit in heathen darkness. I keep saying this, I don't care what denomination you belong to, what your church does has done in the last hundred years doesn't interest me that much.

It's what your church does in the next five that's going to count. Does God have any answer? Well I'll tell you what, if Christianity hasn't a message that can purify your heart and indwell you by the holy ghost and keep you pure, you'd better pack up and go somewhere I don't know where because no other religion in the world has it. Do you know that Christianity is the only religion in the world where a man's God comes and lives inside of him? Do you know that Jesus did not die to make bad men good, he died to make dead men live.

I have to see some old friends here tonight, some old faces too. The prophecy of Isaiah chapter 6 and reading from verse 1 into verse 9. Isaiah 6 verse 1 into verse 9. In the year that King Uzziah died, Isaiah saw the Lord sitting upon a throne high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims, each one had six wings, and with train he covered his face, and with train did he cover his feet, and with train did he fly.

And one cried unto another and said, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of his glory. And the pulse of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, 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 mine eyes I have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a life call in his hand, which he had taken with the tongues from off the altar. And he laid it upon my mouth and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips, thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I, send me. And he said, Go. There are three simple words in verses 5 and 7 and 9 of this reading.

In verse 5 the word Woe, in verse 7 the word Lo, and in verse 9 the word Go. The first is the word of a man, the second is the word of a seraphim, and the third is the word of God. The first word is a word of

confession, Woe is me.

The second is a word of cleansing, Lo, this hath touched thy lips. And the third is a word of commission, Go. This scripture is very clearly dated for us because in the first verse here it says in the year that King Uzziah died.

Bible scholars seem to be generally agreed that Uzziah and Isaiah were, as we would say in the colloquialism, they were buddies. If you read the first chapter you'll discover there that Isaiah reigned in the son of Amos, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah, and kings of Judah. Uzziah reigned for a span of more than 50 years.

He was a reformer, he was a kind of political wizard, he did very much to, if you like, build the status of the nation. He was Lord Acton I think who said that power corrupts but total power corrupts totally. And this man got to the place where he arrogated to himself an office that God said that even a king could not touch.

He went into the sanctuary to minister holy things and when he did that the curse of God fell on him and he was smitten with leprosy. I think that as I said this morning we've lost a sense of awe and majesty about the things of God. In the days of David the king or Uzziah the anointing of a king was the greatest thing that happened to a nation.

Millions of people gathered and a horn of oil was placed on the head of the king and everybody had a period of jubilation and feasting and rejoicing. And so perhaps you can think of some of the awesomeness when a king became depraved or disobedient. You know you may read the scriptures and understand them much more quickly than I have done.

But I wondered for years why in that 51st David says take not thy holy spirit from me. What was in the back of his mind? Why did he say that? Because before him there had been the first king of Israel. The people desired a king like other nations.

I don't think God intended it. They wanted it. They got it.

And God did with the nation what often he does with people. He granted their request but he sent leanness into their souls. And you remember how king David became a very wonderful king.

He became a great poet. He became a great songwriter. He wrote about 75 of 150 songs.

But now he isn't strumming his harp. He's cringing before God. Take not thy holy spirit from me.

Because immediately before him there had been the greatest king that they'd ever had. He was the first anyhow. But immediately he was anointed.

The spirit of God came upon the king of Israel. And he not only was anointed king he prophesied. He had gifts of the spirit but he died a suicide.

You wonder the scripture says how the mighty fallen. David says take not thy holy spirit from me. You see the man who once had the anointing of God.

The man who once had prophecy. He goes cringing before a spiritist medium and says bring up your God. Not my God.

Not our God. Bring up thy God. And I think the only time in history when it was genuine the spirit came from the dead and spoke.

The spirit of Samuel. And the king thought that the prophet might be easy on him and he said God has taken his spirit away from him. He said he has taken his spirit away from you.

And again I remind you the man who had the anointing of God the Holy Ghost and the man who prophesied died a suicide. He fell on his sword. And here again the same tragedy happens.

The man who had been anointed the king over Israel and here he dies in a colony with a leper's rag upon his lip. And Isaiah says in the year that King Uzziah died I saw also the Lord. It's my opinion that if this man or at least if this king had died before this that Isaiah would have seen the Lord before this.

But you see there was an obstruction. Now if I would just give you a title for this message tonight it would be this. It would be vision.

The church tonight has more vision than it's ever had. Unfortunately television. But in the year that King Uzziah died I saw also the Lord.

This is a threefold vision. In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord. In the year that King Uzziah died I saw lost world.

In the year that King Uzziah died I had a total revelation of myself. A threefold vision. In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord high.

But he not only saw the heights of God's holiness he saw the depths of his own depravity. He saw the breadth of lost world. It was a vision of deity he saw the Lord.

It was a vision of depravity he saw himself. It was a vision of beauty he saw lost world. It was a vision of holiness he saw the Lord high and lifted up.

And the cherubim were not singing about the attributes of God. They were not singing omnipotent omnipotent or omnipresent or omniscient is God. Those are the characteristics of God.

They were singing about the very nature of God. They were saying holy holy holy is the Lord. And in the book of the revelation it says that they cease not to say by day or by night holy holy holy is the Lord.

And the supreme need of the church of Jesus Christ tonight is not another manifestation of miracles it's another manifestation of God's holiness. I hear a great deal as I travel about the gifts of the Spirit and they're wonderful. I don't hear as much about the gifts about the fruit of the Spirit.

I hear very much less about Roman six which talks about having your fruit unto holiness and I hear less still about bringing forth fruit meet for repentance. It was a vision of holiness he saw the Lord high and lifted up. It was a vision of hopelessness he saw his own heart.

It was a vision of helplessness he saw lost world. You see there is a sense in which the theme of this wonderful book is the theme of holiness. A few years ago in the synagogue in Rome of all people there was a very brilliant scholarly rabbi by the name of Lozatto and he said concerning the prophecy of Isaiah it seems as though Isaiah had a pre-sentiment that his book would be attacked.

There is no book in the Bible that has been attacked by the critics except maybe Genesis more than this this wonderful book of Isaiah. And I suppose even a first grade student Bethany knows where this book is divided. The book is divided from chapters 1 to 39 and then from 40 to 66 and in the first part of the book he speaks about the holiness of God 12 times and then in the second half he speaks about the holiness of the Lord 17 times and in the whole of the Bible there are only four more five more references two in Jeremiah and there are three in the book of Psalms.

Now this man has a qualification which is the loftiest qualification a human being can carry. The greatest office in the world is not being the president of the United States or the king of the British Empire. The greatest honor in the world the most exclusive order that God ever had in my judgment is the order of the prophet and the prophet by the very nature of his calling is a dramatic and I think not only a dramatic character but I think also he's a unique character because you see the true prophet of God is is torn two ways.

He has a desperate love for his nation and he has a fierce loyalty to God. He has no price tags. He thus saith the Lord falls on whoever it might fall and he cares not about consequences.

And Isaiah says in the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord. You see Uzziah is right in front of him. He's blocking all his vision and God can't get to him until he removes the idol from his life.

I believe that we're living in the most critical year in history. It's whether God can get us out of our theological play pens, get us out of the nursery into the armory to put on the whole armor of God and fight the good fight and resist principalities and powers which is the rightful task of the church of Jesus Christ. Now of course immediately you talk about vision somebody will give you a nudge and say now you've got to watch these kind of people you know.

Visions are so dangerous. You ever hear Christians warning other Christians not to get too rich? I don't. They'll even tell you how to make it, play the stock market.

They won't warn you about getting too rich. They won't warn you about getting too intellectual but brother they'll chase you and warn you lest you get too spiritual because if you tell you get too tall spiritually they look such dwarfs and that wouldn't be good would it? One man said quite recently in assembly said it's a dangerous thing if a few people in the pew get more spiritual than us preachers we'll chase you. Amen.

So vision is dangerous. Well it could be. If you have a vision without a task you'll be a visionary.

If you have a task without a vision it's drudgery. But if you get a task wedded to a vision you'll be a missionary. And in every front street is a mission field right now.

You've got heathen driving Cadillacs. You've got perverts riding Lincoln Continentals as well as Volkswagens. I'm assured of this in my being tonight that there have never never never been more lost people in the world than there are at this moment and let me tell you something for nothing.

This generation of Christians is is is responsible for this generation of lost men and women. The only hope is that again we get vision but be very careful. Button your lip.

Don't shoot a prayer to heaven and say God give me a vision because it may break your family up. You may have to say goodbye to your girlfriend for five years. You may have to leave business and live on what you've got and sweat and weep and pray and travel.

So don't get too heroic while you sit there in your pew tonight. You know there are cliches in the church of Christ. I've heard people say things in America and I've gone to another country and heard the same thing and one of the cliches that goes around and has been going for years goes something like this.

Well you know you can be so heavenly minded you're no earthly use. Isn't that brilliant? You'd almost think Shakespeare said it. You can be so heavenly minded you're no earthly use.

Oh come on grow up. The church of Jesus Christ tonight isn't so heavenly minded it's no earthly use. It's so earthly minded it's no heavenly use.

A long while since I was in a Quaker meeting but I enjoy them. In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord high and lifted up and his train fill the temple. And I'm convinced that the next revival will have to be and it will be a revival of holiness.

I noticed that Nikki Cruz recently said this that we need a revival in America but supremely we need a revival of holiness. And there are some people who almost swear by every word that Charles G Phinney said maybe the greatest evangelist America ever had. But you know when he finished his career and 72 percent of the converts of Mr. Phinney were abiding fruit.

Only 64 percent of Mr. Moody's converts were abiding fruit. Because Moody attacked the emotions and Phinney attacked the intellect. He said you're not a sinner because you have to be.

You're a sinner because you want to be. He didn't say you're just a prodigal wandering away from God. He said you're a rebel with your fist up against God.

I see people with stickers on their automobiles. I saw one the other day in big letters it said if you love Jesus don't honk. Well most people have a sticker if you love Jesus honk.

But somebody got fed up of that so they had a new one on if you love Jesus don't honk. Well I'll take it either way. But anyhow I see a lot of stickers on automobiles and it says on one side you know a big sticker there smile God loves you.

Well you better be honest you might smile them to hell. You better put a sticker on the other bumper that says God is angry with the wicked every day because that's the other side of the coin. You may have a sentimental God but God is just.

God is holy. The greatest threat to America is not communism. You think I'm nervous? I'm not nervous.

But I'll tell you this I'm also scared to death lest God walks out on America. He won't put up with our sin much longer I'll tell you that for nothing. We don't have 300 hours of gospel broadcasting every week.

Well the rest of the world doesn't have a fraction of that and get away with it. We're not going to fill all the courts we're filling with crime and everything else and get away with it. We're not going to spend all afternoon watching the vikings and get blazing mad because the preacher preaches 10 minutes too long Sunday morning.

I should have said the rams excuse me I'm sorry. But it's just as stupid to watch the rams play the goats as it is for the vikings to play isn't it? But you know a lot of our piety won't stand any investigation really. It won't stand a close-up picture that God would give it.

In a year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord high and lifted up. I wish we could see him like that tonight. And his train filled the temple above it stood the seraphims each one had six wings and with two he covered his face and with two he covered his feet and with two did he fly.

But I think I'll go to the end of the chapter first and remind you that this man saw a world that was lost. And you know who goes to the world that's not the gold-plated intellectual theologian. He doesn't go he sits in his swivel chair dividing theological tweedledees from tweedledums usually.

Why did Gilmore go to Mongolia? Because he had a vision. Why did Judson go to Burma? Because he had a vision. Why did a little Scotsman there go from what Blantyre David Livingstone to divide Africa? Because he had a vision.

It cost him his wife it cost him his children that he buried. It cost him living in hell. But you see he sat down to count the cost he wasn't going on a cruise he was launching a lifeboat he expected a storm he expected adversaries.

And Hudson Taylor says if you want God to open the window of heaven well as sure as he opens the windows of heaven the devil will open the door of hell and you'll get caught between the two of them. And if you want anything less than that well stay at home. I can say this with all my powers if I were to die five minutes minutes from now that one of the attractions in Bethany years ago and I guess today is my heart beats on two levels with it.

One is because it declares the message of holiness and the other is to get the message of Christ to a lost world. Did you sing that hymn tonight as though you were singing three blind mice? Tozzi used to say dear Tozzi used to say we Christians don't tell lies we just sing them in church. And did you sing it tonight with any effect at all when it said how many millions still are lying as the scripture says fast bound in sin and nature's darks of night.

Why are they there? There are more lost people tonight than any period in history and I don't believe the church is ever as sterile and blind as it is right now and those millions are going to rise up at the judgment and point the finger at us because we failed to get to them the message of redeeming grace. You know we all are inclined to live in a state of splendid isolation. You can hear the most dramatic presentation you can see the pictures Mr. Hegri's gathered from around the world and go out there and and suck a lollipop and just talk about nonsense.

But you don't do that if you get vision. The most disturbing the most explosive the most shattering thing that can ever come to a man a woman is vision. And when you get a vision of a lost world teeming millions and millions of people without God or without hope.

I remember going into Papua New Guinea took a plane as far as I could go and then went down the path uh Alan MacLeod was with me at the time. And I remember after we'd spoken to different tribes there I got up one morning and I slipped down a jungle path. It was very beautiful a lot of gorgeous wild orchids wild bananas birds of paradise everything as the hymn writer says where every prospect pleases and only man is wife.

And a woman came out of the bush and she looked at me and I looked at her. A little later we went down into a village where the doorway was about 27 by 27 you took a crawl to get in. It's a lovely house it had wall to wall mud and the old guy there cooked something and he tore it apart with his fingers they have no

knives or forks.

And he hands you a piece of something you don't ask any questions what it is could be a neighbor but you don't ask. And uh you sit there and chew on it you've no salt no pepper no uh you know nothing nice like you get at Becky's. You uh just have to sit there and eat.

But what do you do when you get in a situation like that? Laugh think it's funny. I walked in the jungle I put my hands up I wept some hot tears and I said my god why? With the greatest revelation God has ever given to man why do you have to usually oppose to the pews and get wall to wall carpet? And these people have never heard the name two thousand years after Jesus died. If I were a gambling man I would gamble they'll hear the name of Karl Marx up in those areas before they hear the name of Jesus.

The zealous communists will be there before the Christian is there. My boy David went on a boat one day in the in the south seas on an eight-hour journey they hit a storm. It took them 30 hours no no drinking no facilities on board no meals no toilet and they tossed on the ocean.

And when they got to this particular island he said to his friend well you know maybe we're the first people here with the gospel. One of those what 30,000 islands that string the south seas. They went up a rugged path they came to a house that was made of bamboo and leaves and rattled the doorway and a man came and they spoke and he spoke pidgin English.

Oh yeah yeah he said and he went back and he brought a bible with a green cover immediately. David says I felt I could vomit. Well the bible with the green cover was issued by the Jehovah's Witnesses.

They'd been there a couple of years before the missionaries got there and Jesus says there are people who are so zealous that they'll come to sea and land to make people seven times more the children of hell than they are themselves. I remember preaching at the Karasawa convention up in Japan to a bunch of missionaries and afterwards one of them said you know Ravenille the tragedy is this the gospel of Jesus Christ has been preached in Japan for 103 years. That was 12 years ago.

103 years the gospel has been preached and the total penetration to the population of Japan is half of one percent and I said to the missionaries the way you're going it'll take another 103 years to gain the other half percent. Two years after I went to a mission I went to a meeting the chairman of that meeting I'd spoken of was speaking up there in Illinois and after the meeting I said well how are you? Fine. How long have you been in the country? Oh boy he said these days of jets.

You know just yesterday I was in Japan. Yes yes I was I was in Tokyo. He said as a matter of fact I got my hair cut there because everything in Japan is cheaper anyhow and uh and he said I got my hair cut and he said as I sat in the chair the little fellow was snipping away and he said you a Yankee.

Well I'm an American. Businessman? No. Oh tourist? No.

What are you? Oh he said uh I'm a missionary. Oh good missionary. Ah shake hands.

I am missionary too. Oh I thought you were a barber. Well yes barber barber in the morning eight o'clock till five then I go home I bathe and uh and then I go out with fill my pockets and I have a phonograph and I go with this this new philosophy they have part religion part politics what they call it is agagaki and and he said I go out at seven o'clock at night or eight o'clock and uh I finish at two in the morning.

You don't get to bed till two o'clock. I didn't say that. You did.

I didn't. What did you say? I said I don't get home till two in the morning. Don't you go to bed? Oh no no no I pull the curtain on one side and I wait upon my God from two o'clock till four to renew my strength.

Hey that sounds a bit like Isaiah 40. They that wait upon the Lord but he's waiting upon a stone image. This brother said to me brother Ravenhill I I felt so blazing mad and I was slipping down in the chair I thought he's miss cutting my hair all together while he was talking and then I said to him well listen I'm not asking you what you did last week how long have you done this? Oh sir he said I have done this for seven years.

You've not been to bed before four o'clock in the morning for the last no sir we're gonna clean uh this business of false religion out of Japan we we uh Christianity hasn't done much for us nobody we're gonna get rid of this. I'm giving my life for it. The mystery said I almost wish I'd never been in that chair.

I felt so embarrassed I felt so what I'd come all this way halfway across the world it cost thousands of dollars to keep me here and I'm sleeping all the time this fellow's peddling his damnable literature. You know this book is never wrong it says that men with zeal unholy zeal filled with the spirit evil spirit they out zeal us they out pray us to their God they out fast us they do everything far better than we do it. Think of one prison house I think of it when we sing that hymn as we sang it tonight lost in the dark some prison house of sin tell me this when did you last break your heart over Russia anyhow? There are men sitting in the camps there in their own urine tonight ill-fed ill-clothed worse off than animals you know I kind of think that maybe Jesus got more praise out of some of those folk today than he got out of us because we saw too many alternatives and really we do have television too whose business is it? When Peter was taken to prison they sent a message around the church nobody goes to bed tonight when one suffers all suffer everybody stays up boy I'll tell you they prayed that night because they wanted to go to bed but not only because they wanted to go to bed but because they loved Peter.

To quote dear Dr. Tozer again he used to say Len you know when you and I get to the judgment not many of us will look God straight in the eye we'll bow our head for what we could have done and we haven't done. How many millions are there in Russia tonight? Conservative guess 160 million most of them never seen a bible most have never heard the word of God how many are there in China? A mere 800 million that's all 20 years from now there'll be a thousand million. I reminded you as I reminded some friends the other night that the greatest one of the greatest modern writers in America Dr. Schaefer in his little book Death in the City reminds us that 800 years ago in China eight centuries ago in China every town and village had a thriving New Testament church.

I was in a church not too long ago they had five pastors it's a very wonderful I think one of the greatest in America they told me about this young preacher that they got this marvelous fellow has a gift of gold as it were you know uh it's a kind of wizard with young people and oh my what God is doing in the church and I preached one night there on vision not quite this same message that young man walked down that altar a brilliant young man I forget what university doesn't matter anyhow he was quite a scholar he came to the altar at nine o'clock at night he was still kneeling at that altar at seven o'clock the next morning they said afterwards we don't know all that happened except that wonderful young man that we thought so wonderful was an entirely different man after that somehow God did a cleaning up work in his in his heart and put some vision and put some passion there you know he's lost all interest it seems in everything all he does is wander away and pray for hours and hours and hours he weeps for the loss he dies into the

word of God oh you can be a good preacher without vision I'll tell you something but nothing you can be a missionary without vision too you can do it out of sheer obligation and feeling you should do it but all let a man get vision let his eyes be anointed with the power for another world and neither men nor devils will stand against that man we had an old preach in England you remember by the name of William Booth he started the Salvation Army in 1865 and he said the reason he started it was because he had a vision of lost men and women and he said if after my students have graduated I could do one thing he said I would take every one of my students and I would hang them over hell for 24 minutes and they'd never backslide our oldest boys are missionary in Paraguay in South America when he was a little fella we were going through a city in England the city of Leeds as we went in our little English car I remember him looking through the window and he said daddy what's that building and I said it's a jail well what's it for so I told him and that tower what is it for well it's where they hang men why do they hang them I told him and something leapt out of the pages of history I never forgotten it it was a man in England by the name of Charlie Peace he was the he was the Al Capone of England he broke every law of God and man and he did it with bragging and swank and arrogance broke into banks he raped women he murdered and finally the law got him and one day the judge in the city of Leeds pointed the finger and said you're found guilty by the jury and you hang by the neck until you die and God have mercy on your soul and they put him in a prison cell for three weeks which the law demands a man should have 21 days for the amendment of life a chance to repent and they guarded him night and day the night before he was to go to the gallows an officer went in and said Mr Peace and Charlie said yes they're going to tell me I die in the morning well I'll be here I got my faults but he said I never failed to pay a bill I'll die in the morning okay in the morning the prison governor went into the cell and the doctor according to law and the hangman who was peer point I think and the prison governor and the prison chaplain and they started their procession from the cell where he had spent the last night on earth to go through a door 30 feet away and go up some steps and get his head in the news and pull the string and that's the end of him but as they went the was reading from a little book you know the preacher was nicely dressed you know and he had his cassock on and all the other gear and and he walked in front of the the dying man or the man to die and he was reading very summerously and suddenly the the criminal snatched the preacher and said what are you reading oh oh the preacher said I'm reading from a uh I'm reading from a book uh it's called um meditation meditations he said you and your meditations I'm not interested in that city called heaven and gold streets but you said something a minute ago about a place called hell and listen you said this that hell is an eternal fire where people burn and they're never consumed hell is a is a is a bottomless pit where you fall forever and you never die hell is a second death where you're eternally dying and never die are you going to tell me that when I fall off the end of that rope that something comes out of charlie piece and falls forever and ever and ever and he's never consumed you mean to say that I'm going to be eternally burning and not be consumed you mean to say I'm eternally falling and never reach the bottom you mean I'm going to feel the grip of icy death forever and day is that the hell of the bible well said the preacher that's what they told me charlie piece said sir I haven't got more than five minutes to live let me tell you something if that is the true state of hell now I'm sure you've all heard sermons on the second coming I'm sure you've heard sermons on the second birth and you've heard sermons on the second covenant and you've heard sermons maybe on the second adam did you ever hear a sermon on the second death or aren't we grown up enough to hear that kind of stuff these days charlie piece said if the hell that you've described just now is the real hell let me tell you preacher this if you covered england with broken glass from one coast to the other than england is about 140 miles wide at that point and if you cover the ground with broken glass and you made me kneel on my hands and knees and crawl and leave a trail of blood behind me and if I snatched one man from destruction I would say charlie piece you're a wise man to be a christian because you not only

saved yourself from eternal burnings you saved another man charlie piece went to the gallows I hope he shot a prayer to heaven before he got there and you know in our beautiful spiritual superiority we say I have some lovely neighbors they happen to be jehovah's witnesses and they don't believe in hell I talk with some nice mormons oh I love to hear the mormon choir and not one of them believes in hell I'm sure mr sun moon doesn't and a lot of these other guys around I've got news for you if we did our prayer meetings will be throbbing with broken-hearted weeping men and women but the church of god is in such a state today if you weep over lost men they think you're a sissy or somehow your mentality's gone but I've got news for you jesus wept the apostle paul wept jeremiah wept and he that go forth weeping bearing precious seed and when god shakes out the tears of weeping men and women they'll be more precious than all the jewels the world ever knew dry-eyed praying never brought revival put that in your pocket and you can't find me a revival in history that wasn't preceded by the same thing that women have when they're bringing forth children with travail and agony oh I remember being on the down what is it pennsylvania and uh new jersey I think and I slipped out from the meeting one night and walked down the forest where they said david brainerd used to pray and over the wall there were the there were the broken down old graves of the indians he used to talk to now remember that little man he weighed maybe 90 pounds when he sneezed he sprayed blood when he coughed you'd think he was a fox barking and he said one day god does it matter how I live or where I live while men perish I'm not interested to make money I'm not interested to be non-men die he said of an occasion he knelt in the snow with the snow up to his chin he had to make a hole in the snow and here's a man who when he coughs you think you've broken this rose up because he split pieces of his lungs out and if you've taken a piece like that I think the doctor would tell you your lungs will stretch like this and it was a piece of his own lung he couldn't even get enough food to live on now it seems you to send the missionary to padded and secure and save to the mission field we're not evangelizing the world we're losing the evangelizing evangelization the world continuing as I said the other night when when 50 million people went down the drain laos cambodia and vietnam may be the most aggressive mission society in the last 10 years there has been the alliance particularly in what in vietnam where they did a super work and saw god work and now those places are places of hideous hellish torture and god pity us we need slumber need mattresses to get to sleep at night the answer is not political wizards the answer is god's prophets and god is going to get them my time is nearly gone a vision of a lost world do you think you really dare pray for one the second vision he had was a vision of a holy god that's beautiful i like the hymn written by oliver wendell holmes in this country lord of all being thrown before thy glory flames from sun and star centering soul of every sphere yet to each loving heart our dear and he goes on in that hymn and he says before thine ever blazing throne we have no luster of our own as i tried to share with you feebly this morning i found the secret of dr tozer's life one day as we talked together i remember talking in london with dr martin lloyd jones he said are you going back to the states i said yes sir will you see dr tozer i said yes it was about three years before he died and he said will you thank him from me for writing this book the pursuit of god i said i will and in tozer's office one day i said dr martin lloyd jones sends his greetings and he thanks you for writing that book the pursuit of god and i remember he just smiled you know that kind of lame smile of his and he said len that book the pursuit of god is 25 years of study i never had a vacation for 25 years now you can sit down and write a book get a girl to copy have a ghostwriter make a fortune for 25 years i gazed on his holiness his blazing majesty his purity and he read everything that he could on the majesty and the holiness and the beauty and the perfection of jesus such is the blazing holiness of god and you know what the blinding holiness of god is so great of jesus and his majesty that even seraphims are to put their avail their faces like you put on your sunshade so the sun won't blind you they know sunshade and so they close their wings and they filtered that blazing light through their wings because even seraphim cannot become the holiness of god

and then they put two wings over themselves because they couldn't bear the scrutiny of the holy one oh we need a new revelation of the holiness of god brother it won't be hard for you to get on your belly and worship him if you see the holiness of god it won't be hard for you to turn off the tv and some other junky things that eat your life up or at least dissipate your spirituality when you feed on his holiness his love his majesty his purity my god how wonderful thou art thy majesty so bright oh jesus jesus dearest lord forgive me if i say for very love thy sacred name a thousand times a day burn burn within me love of god and told us that i get so near to god sometimes i almost wish i could slip through the gates i see his matchless holiness and then i look down on the corruption of the church and the filthy manure heap on the world and my spirit breaks i ask in god's name why are we so earthbound i ask you why don't you take some time every day to gaze on the blazing holiness of the son of god we are gonna see him soon anyhow brother hegri was asking me the other day showing me a book written by a man called dr davis a man who years ago was one of the leading advocates of socialism in england he got marvelously converted and he became just as radical for god as he'd been for socialism dr davis says this i find and i find it deeply moving he said forsyth had seen once and for all the agony of god in christ crucified and that abysmal vision convinced him that the material progress of society was but froth cast up by the sea whose undercurrent is tragedy hence his historic insistence on the holiness of god and the historic fatality of the cross forsyth persisted in the one determination to keep saying no to history even when events seemingly confirmed human pretensions don't some of you gray heads hear an echo today in the like i heard 50 years ago we're going to build a new country we're going to pull down the hills of wealth and fill in the private fill in the valleys of poverty we're going to make the crooked places straight we're going to wave a magic wand and bring in a millennium peter forsyth says no i'm determined to keep saying no to history even when events seemingly confirm human pretensions and i think that was the part of his genius i saw the lord high and lifted up his train till the temple and the seraphim were crying holy holy holy there used to be an old holiness preacher in america and every time he opened the bible he spoke on holiness or sanctification or purity or something and one day somebody said to him you know you're interesting to listen to but every time you open the bible it's holiness hey brother he said i don't have to open it it says holy on the covers before you get inside it already says holy anyhow you know we're very fond of miracles i've got a few in my life and they're very wonderful you know what the greatest miracle is that an omnipotent god can do the greatest miracle of a holy god is to take an unholy man out of the world make that unholy man holy put him back in an unholy world and keep him holy they took the finished work of jesus christ all the power of redemption and all the power of the holy ghost to take a man a criminal a vile man a rebel and break his spirit and purify his heart and fill him with the holy ghost and make every member of his body a servant of righteousness that have been a servant of sin i'll hurry up i don't want to but i will all right we need a vision of a lost world i say again reverently don't pray it may change your whole habit of life god may tell you to live on one meal a day god may tell you to fast two days a week god may tell you since you're too old to make it to sell half you've got and give it to a good organization like this or some other and feed somebody on the mission field he may tell you to get to prayer and fast until your children get a vision of a lost world and want to go to the mission field an experience of god that costs nothing is worth nothing and he does nothing the last vision he had a vision of himself now that's pretty devastating it was robbie burns wasn't it and said he would somehow the power to give us to see yourselves as it is see us well i think robbie burns wrote some magnificent things but i think that was nonsense i don't need to see myself as others see me this man over here i think i have one friend that likes me and uh that man that likes me maybe brother dick here everything i do is right this man over here doesn't like me everything i do is wrong well what would a human opinion i don't need to see myself as others see me i sure don't need to see myself as i see myself but all to see myself as god sees me was it d

I moody that said if god gave man the power to invent a camera that would show us our own hearts we'd all want our pictures taken but not one of us would show it to anybody we've got those pockets of sin and corruption and selfishness and rebellion and arrogance you know lord take my sins but leave me alone take my wife and let her be consecrated lord to thee take her silver and gold that's about it isn't it millions of lost people tonight here am i send somebody else but when i see myself the hymn i just say search me oh god my actions try and let my life appear as seen by thine all searching eye to mind my ways make search all my thoughts the secret springs the motives that control the chambers where polluted things or hold empire all the soul search till thy fiery glance of cast its holy light through all and i by grace and brought at last before thy face to fall do we pray that kind of prayer you see this vision isiah has here is not the first vision because he has a vision in the very first verse of the first chapter he sees a corruption of the nation and if you read the previous chapter the fifth chapter his eyes are very discerning he says war to you and war to you and war to you and war and he's full of woes until those eyes that turned upward and saw the holiness of god those eyes that turned outward and saw lost world those eyes turn inward and when he says himself he has no woes for anybody else it's war is me i'm undone it's not my brother not my sister the colored folk used to sing but it's neo god standing in the need of prayer ah yes god can do more than save us from the wrath of judgment he can do more than get rid of the record of our lousy sins it is so in the plan of god that he can cleanse us and purify our hearts and indwelleth by his holy spirit but all when those eyes turn inward and god begins to read unsparingly because you see the one thing god will pity your ignorance he'll pity your poverty but he won't pity your iniquity if you hide it there's one thing god will god tolerate in men on women and that is rebellion it is sin it is pride it is anger it is jealousy it is secret lust no sir the redemptive work of god in christ was to purify us from all iniquity it will not make us perfect it will not make us faultless but it will make us lord sin with all the power that we can loathe it and once we've got tired of ourselves and we've got purified then then god begins to open up new areas and you say lord make me a living sacrifice to go there i'd be just happy to die for you in that area what's your problem tonight your erratic will do you get stirred up every time somebody comes and stirs you and then you simmer down afterwards have you got an erratic unstable will like that or do you say no i've got i've got something more chronic chronic that i've got chronic selfishness in my heart or you say it's not chronic selfishness i have a secret lustful nature hg wells got almost to the end of his life before he found what he said that man was incurable sure he's incurable what's the problem well the problem is man two things i'm through some years ago and often when i was in new york with teen challenge i'd go on to west 20 40 44th street the legitimate theaters are there and they come out usually about 11 or midnight and there used to be a man hanging around there and he'd go to a pretty chorus girl and say well sweetie would you uh i'm a gourmet cook and i cook in french wine and uh i'd like to take you home for a meal and then we'll dance would you like to come and bring your partner there and my friend will come and that man went for years like that he said i never engaged in sexual immorality i love people i love talking i love to dance i love to cook and one day he was sitting in a bar i think in new york and he suddenly said is this all life is for make money eat drink go to sleep have fun that's not much better than animals so i went down to kentucky and he knocked on the door of a monastery and asked them would they take him in and they did and they they cut his hair tongue showed his hair and took his worldly clothes and burned them and put a a new rig on him gave him a pair of sandals gave him a cell to sleep in gave him a board to sleep on gave him a place at the refectory table he took vows to poverty celibacy i don't know what every every conceivable thing that would discipline him poverty celibacy silence give me the meanest task in the in the monastery and they did it and before long he oh of course he got up at midnight to pray prayed till one o'clock went back to bed till three and got up and prayed till four and went back to bed and got up at five you know pretty easy going and uh he went on like that for a few years and he said you know folk are idiots to live in new york all you

do is breathe in gas fumes then it's not healthy and it's stupid to live to make money and you know just wear nice clothes and all the rest my i'm in a monastery this is paradise i haven't spoken to anybody for a long while year or two except if he got permission to do it from the abbot he'd have no problem with his rent he'd have no problem with the stock market he'd have no problem anything else about one day the man that let him in at the door the man that said he said he's like a reincarnation of saint francis of assisi is such an angelic face he walked so safely he looked so good but one day somebody trod on the toes that man metaphorically and he blazed in anger and suddenly his god of eden was invaded with anger and the man raised his fist and there's gonna be a fight he said my god i thought i left that in new york but i see if it's still in the heart of a man cutting his hair and putting him new clothes on and giving him shoes and disciplining his life it won't discipline the devil in him sure he needs something more than that there are more dead men in the world tonight than ever all right as i cried what did he cry always me i'm undone notice he doesn't pray for he doesn't pray for the drunkards in the previous chapter he doesn't pray for the dissipated people he forgets everybody he says it's me it's me it's me lord lord come on search my heart i'm undone i'm unclean my lips are unclean god is in heaven tonight i'm sure that's one of the curses of the church our lips are unclean with gossip with scandal with exaggeration with lying with pure nonsense often with silly sports language much more than we talk about the deity i'm undone i'm unclean and god says that's great that's just what i need to hear and there's an altar there it was like like a table except it had bars across it and on the altar was a sacrifice and under the altar there there was a fire and the dead coals were taken out and they were live red beautiful red coals and and from the sacrifice blood was dropping onto onto those red coals and a cherubim came with a pair of tongues and he took one of those live coals the fire symbolic of the holy ghost and fire and the blood symbolic of the finished work of jesus the redemptive work and he took that twofold symbol of blood and fire and he laid it upon my lips and he said lord i'm iniquitous taken away by sin purge then he said here am i i'm purged of all my selfishness self-seeking self-glory you know self-righteousness all the other hyphenated sins i'm purged now lord you can take me now my lips are clean now love that is pure is passionate the life called from off the altar and he laid it upon my lips and said lord i'm iniquity is taken away in my sin purge and then he said i felt all the release i felt the purity i felt the presence his holy presence and i said here am i send me and he said no one thing we don't need to see ourselves as others see us we don't need to see ourselves as a preacher sees us you know you and i need to see ourselves tonight as god is going to see us at the judgment morning and you'll have nobody to lean on not your darling husband or your sweet wife or your wonderful pastor or your dear sunday school teacher as good as that you'll stand there naked in his presence your bank balance won't matter that much to god your intellectual iq won't matter that much to god your spiritual and moral standing will all the teaching you've had you'll give answer and god knows you forgot bethany have had as much as anybody on earth and if you're lagging behind tonight you'd better get straightened out for you'll be in awful trouble i'll tell you that i don't need to see myself as others see me i need to see myself as god sees me it may make me sick it may keep you at the altar all night and i'm not asking you to be an altar tramp tonight to just come out and kiss the floor with your knees and say lord i'm sorry and get away forget it stay there you're going to let god do some surgery on your heart you better come prepared to stay an hour or two i was in a meeting just a few weeks ago a large church maybe as many people or more than this but there were about 50 preachers there 60 i think and as i finished the message it was on isaiah not not like this but i i preached on isaiah and at the end i said now i'm going to let you come to the altar but no men are coming and no women are coming no men no women well who just preachers and i said close your eyes and come to the altar you preachers there was a stampede they swarmed to that altar and there were so many that they had to creep up the aisles and kneel up the aisle there's a middle-aged man he was climbing over the others and he came up and he said mr raven i said yes he said

could i speak through the microphone a minute well that's always a risk you don't know whether the guy's going to contradict you or give some heresy and i said oh all right all right two minutes only and he said brother raven has been here for three days and he's been saying maybe god brought me here for one man like paul saw on the damascus road where everybody saw the light but he said i heard the voice and he said folk i want to tell you i'm the man i'm a i'm a well-to-do businessman but last night after brother ravenhill spoke i didn't go to bed i walked around this campus till about four o'clock this morning round and round and round and round and then tonight the arrow of god shot right into my heart he said i'll tell you what it means for me i have to give up business god has told me where to go and i'm a middle-aged man but i'm going and i don't care what it costs can cost me my life can cost me every penny but i'm going and i'll have to learn a language but i'm going and i'll tell you where i'm going and he started to weep he said will you pray for me i'm going to iran maybe one of the hardest countries in the world and i don't care if i never come back i'm going god call me i've seen a vision i'm going so those preachers stayed at the altar till morning that's why i said that i'm tired of folk that come out every time you make an altar call forget it you can go home and do that if you want but i'll tell you this that when you come to an altar and you're prepared to put yourself on the altar and you're prepared to say holy god take a fire brand from heaven blood and fire and put it down on that part of my nature where there's corruption where there's rebellion your lips may be just lazy lips that don't testify and don't pray i don't know no i don't you see you've got four people living in you did you know that isn't that a myth four people living in you the person you think you are the person other people think you are the person you think other people think you are and the person god knows you are let me give you one illustration if you're in a plane i'd say fasten your seat belts there's a little turbulence coming no i this isn't out of my life story it's out of the greatest book in the world this book it's about a church that had a dramatic birth and did a wonderful job for god and then something happened she was very prosperous everybody commended her things were going as well as they could and so she said well of course i owe it to posterity to leave a picture of myself and so she began to draw a picture of herself very beautiful just about the most perfect woman that ever lived and she looked at it and said isn't that spectacular never be a church like that as long as the life lasts but a good picture needs a good title what could oh i know i just just think for thousands of years people will admire me and she's going and i say lady lady she says arrogantly what do you want oh i don't want anything except to tell you that while you were painting that picture of yourself uh another picture was being painted oh so you painted me no i wouldn't dare do that but god who is so perfect in his coloring god who lit the stars the god who formed the earth while you were sitting there he was painting you now listen sit down gaze at the picture of yourself aren't you gorgeous well sure well lady just uh hold yourself together a minute i'm going to show you the picture he painted behind it watch me pull this cord and i've got the picture there of an old beaten up old hag that looks about 200 years old and she says in anger and indignation who's that and i say my dear it's you no that's me yeah yeah that's you as you see yourself there your hair is beautiful and wavy here your head is nearly bald there your eyes your teeth are perfect there you are your teeth are corrupt there your eyes are blue there your eyes are bloodshot there your face is round and full of lovely color and here your face is shrunken and wrinkled and underneath you said i'm rich and increased in goods i have need of nothing and god says of you that naked and wretched and blind and poor and miserable is the same person one as she falsely saw herself you see if you live with dwarfs you'll be a giant but if you see some giant you'll see little dwarf if you judge yourself by the average church goer maybe you won't have too much trouble but dear friend we're not going to be judged by the standards of the churches or somebody's creed we're going to be judged by this word god almighty is going is why we didn't invade our resources that god not only gave us jesus christ to save us and redeem us but he says with him he has freely given us all things and the unexplored wealth of god is the greatest tragedy in the

day in which we live a vision of a lost world a vision almost a terrifying vision to me of a holy god a vision of myself supposing i were to probe into your prayer tonight now we won't go back 10 years your your past week's record monday tuesday wednesday thursday if i could say gabriel give me the prayer record of that man sitting there i'm going to read it to the now listen this is an invasion of privacy well it so happens god doesn't know a thing about that he's going to read your prayer record before a thousand billion people in eternity so wake up all right i see people wearing a badge it's fun to be a christian well i never found it that way it's the greatest responsibility on earth it's the greatest privilege to inherit what god has for us before we slip over the bar into eternity to go to heaven with scars because we wrestle against principalities and powers to learn something of secret praying and traveling in birth that revival may be born in russia or in a hellish hall like china or somewhere else not merely for the redemption of men but that christ the travel of his soul thank you for watching this video feel free to like this video and subscribe to this channel to stay up to date with new videos as they come online

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