

4-8-2019

But God

Anna Bennett

Southern Adventist University, annabennett@southern.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://knowledge.e.southern.edu/main>

Recommended Citation

Bennett, Anna, "But God" (2019). *The Main Thing Devotional*. 14.
<https://knowledge.e.southern.edu/main/14>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Chaplain's Office at KnowledgeExchange@Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Main Thing Devotional by an authorized administrator of KnowledgeExchange@Southern. For more information, please contact jspears@southern.edu.

“They were calling out to each other, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven’s Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!””

Isaiah 6:3 NLT

But God

Last Thursday evening I sat with a student and listened to his incredible journey with God this year. Much of his testimony he attributed to finally diving into the Word of God on his own and realizing the power books like Isaiah and Jeremiah had to speak into his life today. As I listened with gladness and joy, I reflected on how much I too resonate with Isaiah specifically.

In chapter six Isaiah has a vision: “It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. They were calling out to each other, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven’s Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!” Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke.” Isaiah 6:1-4

What jumps out at you from these verses? Does anything in particular captivate you?

Spell-bound by the glory of God, Isaiah stood overwhelmed in His presence. The perfection and holiness of God made him feel small, insignificant and more aware of his sinfulness than ever before. Have you felt that way? Perhaps in prayer sometimes you feel overcome by how great God is and how wretched you feel. Or maybe in the midst of a worship experience you feel God’s presence oh so near that it moves you to tears.

Isaiah cried out: ““It’s all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.”” Isaiah 6:5

Often times this is where we get stuck. We zero in on our sinfulness and we can’t move past it. We recount how many times we’ve failed to overcome temptation this week. Or we reminisce on the regrets we have and the mistakes we’ve made. We become bound by our insecurities and failures and do not experience freedom.

But God.

It’s precisely in these moments when we hit rock bottom, when we realize our sinfulness, when we cannot free ourselves from the slavery of sin that God steps in! Hallelujah! In Isaiah’s experience: “Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. He touched my lips with it and said, “See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven.”” Isaiah 6:6-7 Friend, hear me today - just as God removed Isaiah’s sin and covered him in His grace - so has God stepped in and taken on your sin as His own and forgives you completely. Micah

7:19 reminds us that God “tramples our sins under His feet and throws them into the depths of the ocean!”

Now take a moment to pause. What things do you need to confess to God today so that you can be free in Him and experience this forgiveness and grace?

When God sets us free from sin it’s as though we have an uncontrollable, automated response, springing into action, stirred up by the Holy Spirit and set on fire to bring others into this freedom as well. Isaiah hears God ask: “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?” I said, “Here I am. Send me.”” Isaiah 6:8

This Thursday through Sunday the Student Missions team, with help from the Chaplain’s Office, will be training the courageous students who have answered God’s call to go as missionaries into the world next year on their Exit Retreat. In each student who answers this call is a story similar to Isaiah’s, similar to the testimony I heard from the student who sat in my office last week: “Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.” When we were in the midst of our sin, Christ died for us, Romans 5:8 tells us.

What does His unending love, abundant grace, and lavish forgiveness compel you to do? Will you go?

As you make the Main Thing, the main thing this week, may you experience His love and forgiveness and freedom anew!

Challenge:

1. There’s still time to sign up to be a student missionary! If God is calling you don’t hesitate. If He’s calling someone you know, encourage them to answer His call. Get more information by visiting the Student Missions Office located within the Student Center.
2. When was the last time you experienced God’s presence? Unrushed and unhurried? Plan some intentional time in your schedule this week to set aside and be reminded of His great glory and grace!

-Pastor Anna Bennett