

sage to them.' Well," he said, "I did some personal work with the man." He said, "When I finished he wasn't quite as happy as he had been before. But," he said, "God used the personal discussion to give the man a vision of himself. And," he said, "I am glad to say that that man looked - when he saw himself as he was, he looked in humility away from himself ~~and~~ to God and changed, and God wonderfully used him in later days." Oh, that every one of us would have a vision of God and then a vision of ourselves, and would see how wrong it is to expect God to use us or to bless us unless we open up our hearts to the purging fire of His Spirit; and open our lives up that He may look in and see what is wrong with us, and see how ready we are to criticize ^{us} everybody else, ~~and~~ the things that are in ourselves and show us how they are there and show us that only by a miracle can He use any one of us.

And how wonderful is the vision that God gave Isaiah immediately after this, the third vision, the vision that we all need so badly, the vision that is so vital if our life is to be ^{anything} other than something to be cast on the scrap heap, something that is a waste and a ruin and that must end up in the Lake of Fire. Verse 6 tells us of Isaiah's third vision. "Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and they sin purged." A live coal which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar. The altar, the place of sacrifice. The vision of atonement. The vision of cleansing. The vision that nothing we can do can cleanse ourself; that nothing we can do can make us fit to serve God effectively. That nothing we can do can make our lives worth anything in His sight, but God must do it. And thank God He has done it! The altar, the true altar, is an altar which God established. The Book of Hebrews tells us, the blood of bulls and goats could never take away sin. Isaiah knew that. All of the saintly men of the Old Testament knew it. They knew that the human altar would never cleanse them from sin; it would never atone, it would never give them an entrance to Heaven. But it was a symbol, it was a picture of something that would. It was a picture of the altar which God established. It was a picture of the sacrifice that God would provide. It was a picture of Jesus Christ, the one whom God sent; His only begotten Son, whom He gave to die in our stead, that whosoever believeth on Him might not perish but have eternal life. And we need ~~know~~ this third vision, this vision of atonement, this vision of sacrifice. The seraphim came with a live coal in his hands taken with the tongs from off the altar. It is not enough to know that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world. It is not enough to know that He gave Himself there on the cross that whosoever believeth on him might not perish but might have eternal life. You can know all the doctrines, all the wonderful orthodox statements in the world and it may do you no good whatever. The seraph must come with the live coal and touch your lips with it. The result of the sacrifice must be applied directly to you. You must have the living faith in Christ.