

Healing Begins with Honesty

Isaiah 1:1-9

When we open the book of Isaiah, God confronts us with brutal honesty about our condition. He shows us that there is a rebellion, sinfulness, and contempt that still resides in our heart and life (vv. 2-4). Further, God shows us how we are powerless in the face of our sin (vv. 5-8).

When we are honest about the presence and power of sin in our life, we can wonder if there is any hope for healing? According to Isaiah 1:9, the answer is a resounding 'yes'. God is honest about our condition so that we will find healing in Him.

While we may be powerless to bring healing, God is not. 'The Lord of hosts' (v. 9) means that God is 'the all-powerful God'.^[1] Alec Motyer writes, "...to think of the LORD is to think of power and resource unbounded..." God didn't completely destroy his people. He left a remnant. From that remnant came Christ.^[2] In Christ Jesus, we encounter the Lord of hosts who by his life, death, and resurrection broke the power of sin. In the Gospel of Jesus Christ, there is hope for healing.

How should we respond?

First, allow God's honesty about your sin to lead you to honest repentance. Own your sin, confess it, and receive forgiveness.

Second, believe the Gospel. Christ's life, death, and resurrection has set you free from the power of sin. Yes, there is the presence of sin in your life, but you are no longer a slave to sin. Steve Childers writes to all those who are in Christ, "You are free! No matter how defeated you may now feel in your battle with sin, you are no longer in bondage to it. (Rom. 6:5-18). No matter what your current struggle, true hope exists for lasting change." If you are in Christ, you have God's power at work in you (Eph. 1:8).

Questions for Individuals, Families, and Community Groups

- 1) When you underestimate the power of sin in your life, what are one or two human solutions you use to fight sin in your own strength?
- 2) Where do you need to be honest with God, repent, and receive Jesus's power by believing the Gospel?
- 3) How can we pray for Jesus to work healing in your life?

^[1] Young, Edward J., *The Book of Isaiah* Volume 1, 57.

^[2] *Ibid.*, 56.