

I'm Bulletproof, Spiritually Speaking

5th Step - Lesson 2

Step 4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Step 5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

When you're in your old, insane mode of thinking, what happens when you start to realize how messed up your life is and how messed up you are?

- Do you go into denial about how bad it is?
- Do you quickly promise God and yourself that you're going to change?
- Do you launch yourself into some panicky self-improvement program?
- Do you start hating yourself and punishing yourself?
- What else?

Look at how God helped Isaiah out of that way of thinking:

Isaiah 6:1-8—In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

God was letting Isaiah know, "Holy people aren't in any trouble in the presence of God; and Isaiah, I say you are holy." How has God helped you to realize how Jesus has made you holy enough to be in his presence?

The live coal, which should have burned Isaiah's lips, didn't hurt him any more than it hurt the seraph's hand. God's grace made him "bulletproof." How does God's grace help you when you start to feel the shame and embarrassment of your messed up life?

God let Isaiah know that his messes didn't disqualify him from being God's spokesman. How does God's grace change the way you look at Twelfth Step-type stuff? ("Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics...")