

A Passion for God
Isaiah 64:1-9

This passage is about a passion for God. It is presented as a prayer. It is a prayer on the lips of Isaiah for the Israelites. We need to understand the context. The context is one of desperation. In the book of Isaiah, Isaiah prophesies how the Assyrians are going to overrun and destroy Israel, and also how the Babylonians are going to overrun Judah and carry them away into Exile. As a result of such suffering and hardship, the heart-cry we see in this passage was expressed.

This passage is a plea that the people of God would experience a fresh touch from God, which would leave them changed. But, it also shows why we do not experience the power and presence of God more than we do, despite the fact that He is working out His purposes in the world. If you have ever grown disheartened over the condition of the world, and you long to see an intervention from God, or if you have ever faced a crisis in your own life and desired God's intervention, you can certainly relate to this powerful prayer.

1. A _____ FOR GOD'S _____
V. 1

If you were to look back at *63:8-14*, you would notice that Isaiah is recounting God's former acts in their behalf. We see moments in their history when God had intervened on behalf of His people. But since then, it was like God had withdrawn His presence. So, the petition is that God would take the veil and tear it like a piece of cloth, and God's presence and glory would shine brightly upon them again.

- A. WE NEED GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE MIDST OF OUR _____
- B. WE NEED GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE MIDST OF OUR _____
- C. WE NEED GOD'S PRESENCE WHEN WE FACE OPPOSITION
- D. WE NEED GOD'S PRESENCE TO CARRY OUT OUR ASSIGNMENTS

I want you to understand something that we who live on this side of the cross need to bear in mind. In very profound ways God has answered Isaiah's petition in the New Covenant.

There are some assurances we have as God's children living in a fallen world:

1. God is active in His world accomplishing the redemption of His children. God is not silent. He is actively redeeming a people for Himself.
2. God is not asleep. He neither slumbers nor sleeps. *Psalm 121:1-8...*
3. God is Sovereign. *Romans 8:28*. God sees and knows. Because of His presence with us, there is never anything to fear.

2. A _____ FOR GOD'S _____

V.V. 1B-3

A. GOD'S POWER TRANSCENDS THE _____ OF _____

B. GOD'S POWER TENDS TO (WATCHES OVER) _____

C. GOD'S POWER TRIUMPHS OVER _____

3. A _____ FOR GOD'S _____
V.V. 4-9

There are some things we ourselves must give attention to that Isaiah addresses. If you want to experience God rending the heavens and coming down, we have to ready ourselves:

A. WE MUST WAIT ON GOD

V. 4

B. WE MUST WALK IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

V. 5

- ☐ Walk in righteousness by remembering the ways of God.
- ☐ Walk in righteousness by turning away from sin. V.V. 5b-6
- ☐ Walk in righteousness by turning away from unconcern and apathy. V. 7
- ☐ We must walk in righteousness by yielding to God - Thou art the potter. V.V. 8-9

I want you to see that as Christians we have the assurance of both the presence and the power of God in our lives. But our hearts must be right before God.

"God, thank You that in regards to sin, You have rent the heavens and come down. You sent Your Son. Thank You also that at Pentecost, You rent the heavens and came down. Through the presence of Your Spirit, we have comfort and counsel, and also the power we need to carry out the assignments You have given to us. But God, there are trials that Your people have, that in a very real way, we need You to rend the heavens and come down. Lord, for that to happen we need to be ready; we need to be clean; we need to seek You. But Lord, speak to us. Help us. Intervene and show us Your Will. In Jesus' Name, Amen."