

“YES!”

Scripture used: [Isaiah 6:8 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

This week Pastor Hurmon continued our sermon series *Dangerous Prayers*, where we are learning how to pray in ways that will literally change our lives, especially our experience of God. We are learning how to reorient ourselves by moving God from the margins right into the center of life. When we pray these dangerous prayers, our plans no longer start with what we want. Instead we start with an openness to God and being led by Him. The first dangerous prayer is “Lord, make me more honorable.” The second is “Lord, make my life more weighty.” The third is “Lord, take me deeper.” Now we are learning to pray a single word that summarizes our commitment to His purposes: “Yes!” This is the dangerous prayer that Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane when He said “may Your will be done” in [Matthew 26:42 \(NIV\)](#). This is the dangerous prayer that Isaiah prayed when he heard the Lord calling to him. His response to God’s call in [Isaiah 6:8 \(NIV\)](#) was an enthusiastic yes: “Here am I. Send me.” This is also the dangerous prayer that Pastor Hurmon’s wife Dr. Rhonda Hamilton has been praying since the age of 14. It led her from her California home to Louisiana, to a loving husband and wonderful family, to a rewarding career in medicine, and now a critical role in helping to lead the Palo Alto VA’s COVID-19 task force. And we must also learn to pray this same way!

KEY POINTS

- 1) **Be open to the process of a God shift.** We often start by praying needy prayers, which focus on what we need God to do for us. Over time we will experience a shift in the destination or the motivation of our lives. We start praying needed prayers, which focus instead on what God needs us to do. The earlier we experience this shift, the more God can do in our lives. For Isaiah, this was “in the year King Uzziah died” as he writes in [Isaiah 6:1 \(NLT\)](#). For Dr. Rhonda it was when she was 14. It will be different for each of us.
- 2) **A God shift starts with a God sighting.** Something powerful will happen to us. We begin to recognize the presence, power, and love of God in our lives. This is so much more than an intellectual awakening, or even an emotional event. It’s a process of spiritual awakening, where God’s love is revealed. For Isaiah, this was critical. The Israelites were being threatened by enemies and they needed a spiritual leader to rally the people in defense.
- 3) **God’s holy love allows us to adopt a posture of Yes!** We go through a process that requires us to acknowledge the need for a savior. The self-righteousness we all feel is replaced by a humility based on what God has done for us. We acknowledge our sin and need for God because we see how God’s grace flows through us, cleansing us of that sin. Isaiah experienced this in [Isaiah 6:6-7 \(NIV\)](#), when an angel of the Lord said to him “your guilt is taken away and your sin is atoned for.” At this point we are ready to hear God’s call for us. We can step out in faith, saying YES to God.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - It takes courage to let go of our own plan and embrace God’s instead. This begins with a perspective based on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. [1 Peter 1:18-19 \(NLT\)](#) reminds us “that God paid a ransom to save [us].” That must be our starting point. Have you experienced this process of letting go of your own plans and saying “yes” to God’s plans for you? At this point in your life, do you feel like you are living more for your own plans or for God’s plans?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider [Isaiah 6](#). Praying dangerous prayers requires a lot more than just intellectual understanding. We must embrace the spiritual and emotional process that changes our heart. In order to do this, we each must ask ourselves “Am I ready to adopt a posture of YES toward God? Why or why not?” Today’s message described the way that God’s holy love clarifies our need for God, cleanses us of our sin and provides forgiveness and freedom, and calls us to align our lives with God’s purpose. Pastor Hurmon reminded us that this isn’t a one-time process - it happens over and over again as we go deeper in our relationship with God in our lives. How did this happen in Isaiah’s life? Do you recognize the pattern of this happening in your life? What helps this process to occur in your life on a regular basis?
- 3) **DO** - Pastor Hurmon challenged us to pray this every day: “Lord, give me a heart that says YES!” Join us next week in Redwood City, San Jose, or online! Pre-register on our website starting on Monday for our in-person Gatherings.