

## Send me?? Send me!

“God” conjures up many different meanings in many people’s minds. In order to trust in, praise, and follow “God,” we must know who or what we mean by that term. Who is your God? What does God want you to do? What is your response to God, especially God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit revealed in the Bible?



June 7, 2009

**Isaiah 6:1-8 (NRSV)** In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’ 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!’

## Reflections

When I was asked to write a Faith Statement, I was kind of thinking to myself, “What’s the point of this thing? Am I really going to take time and write a paper about faith? I wouldn’t even know what to put on it.”

I guess I should start by saying that I’ve known all my life that there was a God, and Jesus. I’ve never questioned it, or doubted it. I started going to this church when I was about 4 or 5. I did the whole Sunday School thing, every Sunday morning.

But, I wasn’t always at church. In 4<sup>th</sup> grade, waking up at 9.30 in the morning was getting just a little old for me. In fact, I hated it. I actually avoided it at all costs. Or at least, I tried to. Some days it worked, some days it didn’t. And on the days that it didn’t, I wasn’t a happy person. I mean for gosh sakes, it was the weekend. And it seemed like it couldn’t get any worse until my parents told me at the beginning of 7<sup>th</sup> grade, “You’re going to start a program at church called Confirmation. It’s every Wednesday night until the end of 9<sup>th</sup> grade.”

“What? You’re kidding right? Why?”

On the first night of confirmation, boy, was I unhappy. And this was how I felt for the first 2 months of confirmation. But when my 12<sup>th</sup> birthday came along, my feelings changed. I walked into ‘our room’ and everywhere on the wall and hanging from the ceiling were signs and every single one said “Happy 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Amanda!” And to make this Wednesday night even better, we had cake and cookies, brought in by Ms. Rita. Right there in that moment, I no longer thought that my group was a bunch of girls who just didn’t care and didn’t want to be there. This was so meaningful to me that if you were to go into my room right now and look at the wall where my light switch is, every single one of those signs are hanging there.

My second year of confirmation is when I got the closest with my church. I no longer avoided coming or try to ‘sleep late’ or go really, really slow in getting ready in the morning. I got up and I went. I didn’t care that I woke up at 9.30. I was ready to go and learn about our Father. But why? Is that what you’re wondering? Well, I guess that you could say it was the lessons taught on Wednesdays, or the sermons at church that I was finally starting to listen. I think that it was a

combination of both, and the fact that now I didn’t just walk around saying, “Yeah, I’m a Christian. I believe in Jesus.” No. I walked around now saying that same thing, but with confidence in my voice. And that’s because as I was progressing through this Confirmation at church, I was slowly becoming more and more of a believer in all of these things about Jesus and everything that he’s done for us, even though we don’t deserve it. And it was all because of these things I was learning in the sermon and in lessons on Wednesdays.

So how, you’re asking, has my faith changed? It’s obviously changed in a way that is not easily described. My faith has changed because I believe I have grown in Christ in my own special way. I’ve always known he was there, but now I believe it even more. I have realized that even though we may do things wrong and bad things may happen, and I may think that everyone is against me, no matter what happens, He is there. He’ll be with me every step of the way. He loves me, I am His masterpiece and to me, that’s all that matters.

—Amanda Baldwin

## Readings

### Sunday, May 31

#### Isaiah 6:1-8

What happened to Isaiah just before he committed his willingness to be “sent” on behalf of God? How willing are you to be “sent?” What holds you back?

### Monday, June 1

#### Mark 14:41; Matthew 5:16

In what ways are you *resting* or *sleeping* in your faith? Consider who is affected by your passivity.

### Tuesday, June 2

#### Colossians 3:16; Proverbs 3:5-6

True wisdom through the Word of God changes us and impacts other people, too. What wisdom do you hear in these scriptures? How will you live it out today?

### Wednesday, June 3

#### Galatians 5:22-23

What fruit do others see in your life? Which of these characteristics do you most need to face your challenges this day? Pray for the guidance of the Spirit.

### Thursday, June 4

#### James 5:16

To whom can you go for trusted advice and confession? How does this level of honesty help to heal you? What do you need to share with another person so that your healing can begin?

### Friday, June 5

#### 1 John 4:12

Who has Christ sent you to serve? Spend today looking for opportunities to show kindness to others everywhere you go.

### Saturday, June 6

#### Romans 15:13

Hope in Christ is our great source of energy and encouragement. What gives you hope today? Who do you know who needs hope? Pray for them using this scripture.

***Don't have a Bible? Access these scriptures at [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com).***