

# Isaiah 56 Focus

"For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations..."

## Week 8: Responding to God's Dream

**Background Verses:** When God gives prophecy, it's for the purpose of causing our hearts to so treasure a dream and promise of God, that we won't settle for what's easily attainable or currently at hand, but we'll walk out the process of reaching with God for the fulfillment of that dream.

God gives us a pattern of His promise and our partnership in Isaiah 62. He first declares His dream and His heart, and **then**, God calls the saints to respond and He tells us **how** to respond. We can catch **vision**, but miss **the Spirit of prophecy**, and respond in a way that's outside the ways of partnership with God. The Spirit of prophecy is about **destiny** and **identity** and **the goodness and greatness of God**. It empowers a right response marked by **trust, humility** and **love**.

**Isaiah 62:1** *For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, And for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, Until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, And her salvation as a lamp that burns. 2 The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, And all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the Lord will name. 3 You shall also be a crown of glory In the hand of the Lord, And a royal diadem In the hand of your God. 4 You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, Nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; But you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; For the Lord delights in you, And your land shall be married. 5 For as a young man marries a virgin, So shall your sons marry you; And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So shall your God rejoice over you.*

The first response God calls us to is **intercession**, but not just intercession, but **prophetic, faith-filled, unrelenting** intercession based on the promise of God. God calls us to intercede from a place where our eyes are off the limits of human weakness and on the zeal of God's heart and the strength of His arm. It makes us humble, trusting, loving intercessors.

**Isaiah 62:6** *I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, 7 And give Him no rest till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. 8 The Lord has sworn by His right hand And by the arm of His strength: "Surely I will no longer give your grain As food for your enemies; And the sons of the foreigner shall not drink your new wine, For which you have labored. 9 But those who have gathered it shall eat it, And praise the Lord; Those who have brought it together shall drink it in My holy courts."*

The second call God gives is to **enter in**. God gives a global-sized prophecy and then says to individual saints, **you** enter in. Go, take the journey, find the promise, and take a stand of faith in the place I said the promise would break in. We're not just to have vision in our minds and prayer in our hearts, we're to live a life of faith that declares through risk and investment in going where no one else is going, that we believe it's real and we're seeking there for our inheritance.

**Isaiah 62:10a** *Go through, Go through the gates!*

Then He calls us, as we go, to **clear the way**. We enter in regardless of whether anyone else is doing it or excited about it or gets what we're pursuing or not. But we also enter in with a heart that longs for others to enter in and that goes out of its way to make it easy for them to do so. It's a humble, vulnerable way of leadership – God doesn't call us to point people in the right direction, but rather to share with them our journey and help them dodge what we tripped over.

**Isaiah 62:10b** *Prepare the way for the people; Build up, Build up the highway! Take out the stones...*

Finally, God gives the call to **lift up a banner**. Raising the banner is not a prideful thing of "look where I have arrived", but rather the vulnerable place of sharing the aim of your heart and saying, "I'm going... be inspired by my lead", but also "victory won't happen apart from you coming too." It's an encouraging, empowering call given in the spirit of prophecy.

**Isaiah 62:10c** *Lift up a banner for the peoples! 11 Indeed the Lord has proclaimed To the end of the world: "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Surely your salvation is coming; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him.'" 12 And they shall call them The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord; And you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.*

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*"For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations..."*

## Week 8: Responding to God's Dream

**Response:** With a little bit of a picture of what God's dreaming of when He says, *"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations..."*:

...a people who see themselves with the identity of a royal priesthood...  
...whose lives are given to the calling of intimacy with God...  
...who together fulfill the role of God's ruling assembly in governmental intercession...  
...who gladly embrace a lifestyle of voluntary weakness...  
...who see life from the perspective of a cherished bride...  
...who desire above all else, and cry out for, His kingdom come...  
...who minister to the world around them as friends of the bridegroom...

...talk to God about what it looks like for you to respond to that dream of God's heart and:

**Isaiah 62:7** *...give Him no rest until... 8 [For] The Lord has sworn by His right hand And by the arm of His strength...*

**Isaiah 62:10a** *Go through, Go through the gates!*

**Isaiah 62:10b** *Prepare the way for the people; Build up, Build up the highway! Take out the stones...*

**Isaiah 62:10c** *Lift up a banner for the peoples! 11 *...Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Surely your salvation is coming; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him. 12 ...And you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.**