

## Communion with God (4)

In 1657, John Owen published *Of Communion with God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Each Person Distinctly; in Love, Grace and Consolation or The Saints Fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Ghost unfolded*.

### Questions

We have communion with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit jointly and distinctly. Thinking especially about our communion with the Father:

- How is the Father revealed to us apart from the gospel? See also Romans 1:18; Ephesians 2:1-3; and Hebrews 12:29.
- How is the Father revealed to us in the gospel? See, for example, John 1:17 and Titus 3:3-6.
- How should we respond to him?

John Owen says “to complete communion with the Father in love, two things are required of believers: (1) that they receive it of him; and (2) that they make suitable returns unto him.” We receive the Father's love by faith in him, through his Son. We return the Father's love by loving him. The Father wants us to have communion with him in love (Luke 10:27).

- Why might we doubt the Father's love towards us?
- How can we overcome that doubt?

### Application

The Father himself loves us (John 16:27). This is the great discovery of the gospel. Believe in that love, and this will open you heart to respond to his love with love.

## Isaiah 6:1-13

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" 4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts." 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged."

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." 9 And He said, "Go, and tell this people:

'Keep on hearing, but do not understand;

Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'

10 "Make the heart of this people dull,

And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes;

Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears,

And understand with their heart, and return and be healed."

11 Then I said, "Lord, how long?" And He answered: "Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, The houses are without a man, The land is utterly desolate, 12 The LORD has removed men far away, And the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land. 13 But yet a tenth will be in it, And will return and be for consuming, As a terebinth tree or as an oak, Whose stump remains when it is cut down. So the holy seed shall be its stump."