

Approaching God Boldly

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Approaching God / Hebrews 10:19-23

Introduction:

During visitation this week a guy was sharing with me that he and his wife had been gifted with a cruise. They were able to enjoy the trip and the only expense they were responsible for was getting to and from the airport. They were able to go right up to the ship with no issues getting aboard. When the ship docked at their beautiful destination they came and went freely, as they wished.

The writer to the Hebrews is sharing about the Christian privilege that is even greater than this. You are welcomed and *desired* to come before God's presence. All you have to do is pray. This privilege is available to anyone who has trusted Christ and received His free gift of salvation, or anyone who comes to Him to receive salvation, any time, from anywhere.

Because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, He makes it possible for us to come near to God. In **James 4:8** we read of James encouraging us - ⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you...

That said, this week we're considering the privilege we have, as believers, to be able to approach God and how we ought to do that. I'll take time as the Lord leads throughout the year to deal with this theme approaching God. We are to approach God thankfully, worshipfully, biblically, humbly, with faith, and as we will see today, boldly.

TT - Lets look at four facts about our ability to approach God.

Read Text [Hebrews 10:19-23](#)

[Hebrews 10:19-23](#)

¹⁹ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

²⁰ By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; ²¹ And *having* an high priest over the house of God; ²² Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

Transition

You might hear various reasons from someone who struggles to pray. Consider the following list of some of those reasons.

- Feel unworthy of God's attention
- Don't know what to say
- Prayers weren't answered the way they wanted last time
- God is going to do what He wants anyways, right?

Interestingly, the writer of Hebrews is addressing Jews who are struggling with the new Christian faith that they have recently embraced. They had previously been under a system that was rooted in the OT covenant and with strict regulation under the Levitical law. In fact, they didn't recognize the great privilege of prayer that they really had.

During the OT period the holy of holies was considered to be the place where heaven and earth came together. In [Exodus 26:31-35](#) Moses is directed by God to make a veil that would separate the holy place and the most holy place. The ark of the covenant was to be in the most holy place behind the veil. The mercy seat would rest on top of the ark. Among other details, there were also two gold-plated cherubim above the veil that symbolically guarded access to God's presence as in [Genesis 3:24](#). The cherubim reiterate the sacredness of the holy of holies and warned that no one was allowed to enter outside of God's permission.

Only once a year the high priest make his annual entrance into the most holy place within the tabernacle/temple during the day of atonement. The difference now, as the Hebrews writer is sharing this letter, is because of the death of Christ and the shedding of His blood, *every* believer has direct access to God and there is no veil separating him from God. This is a completely new concept to the first century Christians receiving this letter. Now, through prayer, we are able to go immediately before the throne and presence of God. This had never been known before the cross!

EM BOUNDS said, "Prayer is the divinely appointed means by which man comes into direct connection with God. By His own ordinance God holds Himself bound to hear prayer. God bestows His great good on His children when they seek it along the avenue of prayer."¹

The writer of Hebrews confirms that anyone can go directly to God anytime, from anywhere, for anything. As we read in verses 19-23 we see four facts about our privilege to go directly to God in prayer. Since this was a new concept, not everyone was fully aware of the blessing that they now had under a new covenant in Christ. Others who did were probably still struggling with how to apply it.

1. Approach God with Boldness - v. 19

¹⁹ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

A. Boldness to speak freely

Someone asked Dr. Adrian Rogers, “The Roman Catholics and Episcopalians have priests. Why don’t the Baptists?” He responded, “We do! You’re looking at one! Every believer is a priest.”

Never before had this kind of access been extended to common person to meet directly with God. This verse is sharing about the liberty you can have to personally approach God with boldness, or confidence. The word here means to come with full assurance. As a Christian you now have access to appear before God with confidence.

The confidence with which we can approach God is not based on our merit or goodness. We have no boast to bring with us. In fact, **Ephesians 2:9** reminds us that we are saved by grace lest anyone should boast.

Hebrews 4:16

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

The idea here with boldness means “to speak boldly, or freely” - we can come boldly before God’s throne and speak to Him.

Maybe one would need to bring their:

- Discouragement
- Distress
- Doubt
- Desires

God wants you to come to Him and let Him turn your burdens of blessings

1 John 5:14–15

¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: ¹⁵ And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

B. Access by invitation - enter into

At the time of this letter, dignitaries were considered unapproachable except by those that were their superior. In fact, in order to approach the King, Esther had to find favor with him. Anyone who approached the king without being called of him was to be put to death Esther 4:11 ¹¹ All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, *there is* one law of his to put *him* to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.

That puts in perspective for us that anyone who was familiar with the ways of the culture in that day would have been hesitant to approach God's throne at all. Its a glorious truth that the Christian now has access to come before God with great boldness and confidence.

v. 19 makes clear that you can approach God boldly through prayer and secondly you can

2. Approach God by a New Way - v. 20-21

²⁰ By a **new and living way**, which he hath consecrated for us, through **the veil**, that is to say, his flesh; ²¹ And *having* an high priest over the house of God;

When you use your gps you probably select the most direct route. You'll often try to avoid the one with the most turns, red-lights, slow zones, accidents. The prayer access that a Christian has offers a direct highway to the throne into God's presence. Jesus is the One through which we have access to heaven by prayer. He is our mediator. Like that of a road or a highway, Jesus leads to direct access to the Father.

The new and living way

The word new here means newly slain and is used in contrast to the old-slain road of the earthly tabernacle. The high priest sprinkled the blood of the sacrificial animal seven times on the ground as he approached the mercy seat of the holy of holies (Lev. 16:14), versus the newly slain road of which Christ made a way to the heavenly holiest place, sprinkled with the blood of the Lamb of God. Over the old road was the Jewish reader compelled to choose the new and living way. The old road was a dead end road. The freshly-slain was a forever living highway to the holiest place.

The new and living way is not based on the blood of animals

Hebrews 10:4 ⁴ For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Revelation 5:9 ⁹ And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

The new and living way is An Eternal Way -

living way; consecrated - once and for all **Christ offers a permanent access to the presence of the Father. He has accomplished this work and there is nothing that can reverse it or cause it to need to be renewed.**

This week I had an issue with my computer. I kept getting booted off of a software that I was using for the radio ministry. Come to find out the computer needed to be updated in order to communicate to the software I was using. Once I updated it, it worked but before long, I'll have to update it again to fix the bugs.

Brothers and sisters it is a great report that the writer of Hebrews tells us that the former sacrifice was done every year (v. 3) and that Christ came to do away with the first that He might establish the second (v. 9) and He has secured a once and for all offering on the behalf of all who look to Him for salvation and access to the throne (v. 10)!

The new and living way has no veil -

In Matthew 27:51 Jesus gave up the ghost and the veil was torn ⁵¹ "And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent." Can you imagine what it must have been like to hear the priest running out of the temple describing what happened?

The veil is no longer and obstacle that separate us from God's presence. The thing that separates us is our sin. 1 John 1:9 He is faithful to forgive us and to cleans us when we confess our sins.

After hurricane Ian recently hit FL roads were flooded with debris that prevented people from getting to safety. Likewise when we were lost we were unable to make our own way to safety Jesus stepped in and paved a new way to heaven.

When Christ was crucified the unseen hand of God tore the veil symbolizing that Christ has forever gained believers access to God and to institute that the new covenant was to be recognized and the old done away with.

The new and living way is atoned by our high priest -

the three offices (prophet, priest, king)

A prophet spoke to the people on behalf of God and a priest spoke to God on behalf of the people. Jesus is our high priest.

The word “high” is different here than is used in **Hebrews 9:25**

²⁵ Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the **high priest** entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

The word in verse 21 “mega” contains the root “mega”

This is to refer to degree and intensity
great; mighty;

The other greek word that has the root arch like archangel.

Jesus is a far better and superior high priest. He has finished His work once and for all.

3. Approach God with a True Heart - v. 22

²² Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

In Spurgeon’s morning and evening devotional on October 5, Mr. MacDonald asked the inhabitants of the island of St. Kilda how a man must be saved. An old man replied, “We shall be saved if we repent, and forsake our sins, and turn to God.” “Yes,” said a middle-aged female, “and with a true heart too.” “Aye,” rejoined a third, “and with prayer”; and, added a fourth, “It must be the prayer of the heart.” “And we must be diligent too,” said a fifth, “in keeping the commandments.” Thus, each having contributed his mite, feeling that a very decent creed had been made up, they all looked and listened for the preacher’s approbation, but they had aroused his deepest pity. The carnal mind always maps out for itself a way in which self can work and become great, but the Lord’s way is quite the reverse. Believing and being baptized are no matters of merit to be gloried in—they are so simple that boasting is excluded, and free grace bears the palm.²

A. We are coming face to face with God - draw near

B. We are washed

In the OT the sins of the people were covered...in the NT our sins are washed!!!

Psalm 51:2

² Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.

Psalm 51:7

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Hebrews 10:14 ¹⁴ For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Grace Greater Than Our Sin

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide

What can avail to wash it away?

Look! There is flowing a crimson tide;

Whiter than snow you may be today

Grace Grace, God's Grace

Grace that will pardon and cleanse within

Grace Grace, God's grace,

Grace that is greater than all my sin

4. Approach God who is Faithful - v. 23

²³ Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

AW Tozer wrote,

Not to pray is a denial of God, a denial of His existence, a denial of His nature, and a denial of His purposes toward mankind.³

He is faithful that promised:

Deuteronomy 7:9 ⁹ Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he *is* God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

It is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who makes demands on us to pray, and it is He who puts Himself and all He has so fully in the answer. He it is who puts Himself at our service and answers our demands when we pray.⁴

He has the authority, wisdom, and ability to keep His promises.

Conclusion

The Christian has a privilege to come and go before God's presence anytime, anywhere, for anything. Take time to rejoice in this great fact. We are welcomed and desired.

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¹ Bounds, E.M. . The Complete Works of E.M. Bounds on Prayer (p. 485). The Cause of Christ. Kindle Edition.

² C. H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings* (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1896).

³ Bounds, E.M. . The Complete Works of E.M. Bounds on Prayer (p. 487). The Cause of Christ. Kindle Edition.

⁴ Bounds, E.M. . The Complete Works of E.M. Bounds on Prayer (p. 487). The Cause of Christ. Kindle Edition.