

“Full Access to God’s Throne”

Introduction to Service

The Hebrew people grew up with a completely different perspective on approaching God than we enjoy today. They perceived an all-powerful and all-knowing holy God who demanded honor and absolute obedience, or else! Smoke, fire, thunder and lightning often accompanied His communication with them. Disobedience often brought immediate retribution. At one point, the people begged Moses to mediate.

For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them. For they could not bear the command, “IF EVEN A BEAST TOUCHES THE MOUNTAIN, IT WILL BE STONED.” And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, “I AM FULL OF FEAR and trembling.” Hebrews 12:18-21

God gave the priests and people specific guidelines and procedures in order to approach Him. Only the high priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies once a year to make atonement for sin. Israel presented millions of sin offerings over the years in order to deal with the sin issue. The earthly traveling tabernacle and subsequent temples only represented the existence of the real throne of God in the heavenly realms. The blood of Jesus on the cross was never applied to the earthly temple but the actual one in the heavenlies.

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. Hebrews 9:11-12

The writer of Hebrews wrote to encourage and warn those tempted to revert back to Judaism in the face of severe persecution. He argued through the entire book how Jesus is superior to all that had come before. He is superior to the prophets, to Moses, to Joshua, to Aaron and the priests that followed. He is the mediator of a superior covenant. He is the superior sacrifice. He is the superior High priest. To go back is to lose ground and trust the picture rather than the substance.

Because of the death of Christ we have access directly into God’s presence.

Because of the resurrection of Christ we have a sympathetic mediator once we get there.

*Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, **SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD**, waiting from that time onward **UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET**. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying, “**THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART, AND ON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM,**” He then says, “**AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.**” Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin. Hebrews 10:11-18*

Because of Jesus we have been perfected for all time.

Because of Jesus God imbeds His word in our heart and mind.

Because of Jesus, God does not hold ANY of our sins against us; we are forgiven.
Because we are forgiven, no more payment is necessary for us to commune with God.

In light of what Jesus accomplished for us through the voluntary offering of His life, the writer of Hebrews issues three instructions. He mandates three continuous actions in light of the fact we have been granted full access to God's holy throne and presence. Each instruction begins with a "let us" followed by a present tense action verb indicating a continuous mandate to act.

This message focuses on the first one. The next message on the other two.

- **Continuously and confidently draw near to God's presence.**
- **Continuously and steadfastly hold fast to the God's promises.**
- **Continuously and thoughtfully encourage God's people.**

Continuously and confidently draw near to God's presence

Generally, God includes a reason behind a command; a strong motivation to comply. Sometimes the reason for complying is simply "Because He said so!" Even if He told us the reason we would not be able to understand it at points in our life. Perhaps later. Perhaps not until eternity. Whenever He does give a reason or motivation we would do well to pay attention.

Therefore, brethren, having confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. Hebrews 10:19-25

Before we look at three motivations for action within our selected section of Scripture, we need also to observe that the whole section connects to previously stated truth. The "therefore" alerts us to previous assertions. As we previously mentioned the writer reminded the readers that Jesus offered Himself for sins for all time for all people. Because of Jesus there is forgiveness and no need for any other sacrifice to gain access to God. Therefore, here is what I want you to continuously do. He includes three inspiring motivations; three powerful truths that prompt action identified by the word "having". On the basis of "having" this, do that. On the basis of these facts, live or respond this way.

MOTIVATION ONE

"Having confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus."

This is the same "Holy Place" that struck fear into the hearts of the people.

This is the same holy place that required a pure body and a pure heart in order to enter.

This is the holy place that called for certain attire and spotless sacrifice.

This is the holy place even the High Priest was reluctant to enter.

This is the holy place where, at times, smoke from His presence filled the room.

This is the holy place where God manifested His majestic glory.

Where in the world does someone like me and you find confidence to enter? The word “confidence” refers to boldness, frankness, bluntness, assurance. It was used in reference to bold assertions. It was used to describe someone who spoke or acted with confidence.

This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. Ephesians 3:11-12

Where do we get such boldness? The writer tells us. It is by the blood of Jesus. Just as the High Priest entered the holy place with the blood of a spotless lamb, we can boldly enter the holy place with the blood of Jesus.

you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. 1 Peter 1:18-19

His blood opened a new and living way into God’s presence. He opened a way not available before (new) and would continue on and never be closed. Nothing we could do or say or think could achieve access to God’s holy place. It is not our good works that allows access. It is not our accomplishments that enable us to come before God.

Too often we think that God is more accepting of us when we have longer devotions. If we think that anything we do merits us greater access, we rely on our credentials. Only the blood of Jesus grants access into the Holy place. It was His voluntary offering of His flesh and blood that opened access to the holy place. Because it depends on Him and NOT us, we can enter with confidence. The confidence is in the work of the dearly loved Son of God not us that opens the way. The writer includes a second reason for such confident entrance to the Holy Place.

MOTIVATION TWO

“having a great priest over the House of God”

The writer already dedicated a whole section demonstrating the superiority of Jesus as the Great High Priest. He was sinless and didn’t need to offer sacrifices for Himself. He doesn’t die but ever lives to intercede for us. He has perfect relationship with His Father. He is familiar with our struggles; he knows us intimately. He knows the Father intimately. He sits at the right hand (the place of power and authority) of the Father. Now if I were entering a frightening and life-threatening place to face a Holy God there is no one else I would rather have than Jesus there to meet me and have my back.

Not only did Jesus pave the way through His sacrifice, He prepares the way through His intercession.

The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:23-25

We have an inside advantage. Do you think you would have a greater chance to get in to see the president if you were a close friend of one of his kids? Jesus not only opens the way to the Holy place through His blood but facilitates the conversation through His intercession or mediation.

MOTIVATION THREE

The third motivation follows the instruction but I want to address it before we address the call to action. The writer used the present tense with the first two motivations indicating an ongoing action. Continuously having boldness to enter because of the blood of Christ. Continuously having boldness to enter the holy place because of the mediation of Christ.

He conveyed the third motivation with a perfect tense action.

“having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” Hebrews 10:22

The perfect tense action indicates an action fully accomplished in the past whose results continue into the future. The passive indicates the action was done to us, NOT by us. I so love this truth. At the moment of our conversion, GOD thoroughly cleansed us inside and out. We enjoy a purified spirit in a purified body. The priests underwent a rigorous cleansing ritual both inside and out in order to enter the holy place. There were washings and ceremonies galore. We don't have to clean ourselves up to gain entrance into the holy place. GOD CLEANSSES US!

Think about it. It is one thing to gain entrance to a place because someone else paid the entrance fee. It is another to gain entrance to a place because we know someone on the inside. We may gain entrance, but we are still the same person. Nothing has changed about us. We are still unworthy sinners that only gain access because God doesn't hold our sin against us by reason of the sacrifice of Jesus. We are still unworthy sinners that only gain access because God's son intercedes for us. Yet the writer includes one more motivation to enter the holy place and God's presence. We have been changed. We have been reborn. We are regenerated. We have been sanctified. If anyone be in Christ they are a new creature; old things have passed away and BEHOLD they have become new. We have been made complete in Christ. For that reason, we can enter God's presence with all confidence.

Don't let Satan lie to you and rob your confidence to approach the very holy of Holies into God's presence. Jesus prepared the way. Jesus is there to mediate for us. Jesus cleanses us and enables us to stand before God with confidence. Because of these most amazing facts, the writer urged three responses or actions. He called for continuous action regarding all three practices.

ACTION ONE

“Let us all continuously draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith”

This is a call to the church, to the family, to the body of Christ as a unified community. Too often we read the Scriptures individually when the vast majority of the New Testament calls for corporate or community action. He called them to draw near. Draw near to what? The context obviously indicates that they were to confidently draw near to the holy place of God's presence. Draw near to God. The writer included two qualifiers; with a true heart and full assurance of faith. Since God cleanses our hearts at conversion, we have been given a true heart. This may also refer to an honest approach and humble approach to God. We draw near to submit to God's purposes and not for our own agenda.

Because of the amazing truths mentioned above, we can have the full assurance or confidence of faith that He will not only accept us, but hear us and commune with us.

It is the fulfilment of Jesus' prayer.

I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. John 17:20-21

What does this continuously drawing near to God look like?

It involves a conscious effort to keep connected to God.

I assume since the writer called on his readers to do it, it is possible not to draw near.

It involves considering God's presence as a constant reality.

It includes but also goes beyond prayer, Bible Study, talking to Him.

It is a sense of always being in God's presence as a constant companion.

It has to do with a life pursuit of deeper relationship with God.

A man named Brother Andrew wrote a book called "Practicing the Presence of God".

God became his daily companion. Practically speaking, developing such a relationship with God involves many of the same elements as building intimacy in any relationship. The spiritual disciplines, which we have previously taught, are really relationship builders.

Here is my list based on the activities God prescribes for us to practice on a regular basis.

- **Solitude and Silence – time**
- **Submission – Surrendering to the relationship**
- **Confession – Keeping an open relationship**
- **Interaction with Scriptures – Getting to know you**
- **Faith – building of trust**
- **Worship – expressions of awe and wonder**
- **Prayer – Intimate talking**
- **Sacrifice – willing to deny self for the sake of others**
- **Simplicity – eliminating the clutter that clouds the relationship**
- **Connection with others – Involvement in the community**
- **Witness – telling others about your relationship**
- **Warfare – guarding against anything or anyone that might affect your relationship**

The key to implementing this response into our life has to do first with proper perception. I can confidently enter the holy place because of the blood of Jesus. Jesus mediates in the holy place as my High Priest. God qualifies me (cleanses) to enter the holy place. God invites me to enter the holy place. I need to enter the holy place.

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" Romans 8:15

Few Jews had such a concept of God. They were even afraid to speak His name. To pray "Our Father in heaven" or cry out. "Abba!" was unthinkable.

- **Having confidence to enter by the blood of Jesus our Savior...**
- **Having confidence to enter by the presence of Christ our great High Priest...**
- **Having confidence to enter by the cleansing of Christ our sanctifier...**

"Let us all continuously draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith"

ENTER IN!

Digging deeper concerning drawing near to God

Further reflection on last week's message from 1 Corinthians 15:58.

In light of the resurrection of Jesus and our promised resurrection at His return, Paul calls us to be steadfast. The focus of this term has to do with personal steadfastness. This is a focus on the internal struggles in the face of hardship. He encouraged them not to give up. He urged them to not lose heart or quit. He challenged them to not doubt either Christ's resurrection or ours. Life's hardships can weaken our resolve to persevere. Our flesh screams, "Quit!" while the spirit urges steadfastness in the face of tribulation. This He also warned them against external pressure to move away from our confession. Be immovable in the face of opposition. Resist the devil and those used by Him to erode your confidence in Christ.

Discerning the "work of the Lord" in which we are to always abound could be complicated. Here Jesus defined the "work of the Lord".

"Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal." Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." John 6:27-29

Our greatest work is to continuously trust in God. From there, we have other work to do related to God.

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16
I believe the key to discerning "the work of the Lord" has to do with motive and outcome. Will this glorify God? Any activity that brings glory to God is a work of the Lord.

One additional thought relates to English grammar. It was pointed out that my usage of the word "continually" was not the correct term to use for the point I was making.

Given Paul's extreme care to indicate the all absorbing nature of our abounding in the work of the Lord, the more accurate term would be "Always **continuously** abounding in the work of the Lord". "Continually" allows for pauses in an activity. "Continuously" indicates that the unpassed nature of the activity. i.e. the water hose ran **continuously** for 5 hours or the faucet dripped **continually** throughout the day. It is the difference between regularly abounding and always abounding in the work of the Lord. Being engaged with God's agenda always IS our life.

DAY ONE

Psalm 1 serves a great way to enter into conversation and contemplation with God.

Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.

Lord, I don't want to get my counsel from those who don't appreciate or follow your ways.

But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night.

I want to demonstrate my delight in Your word by contemplating it all through my day.

They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season.

Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.

Your word brings refreshment and growth. Your word produces fruit in my life. I don't need to be afraid of withering. Because Your word informs my thinking, I will find success in all I do. Let Your fruit be evident in my life.

But not the wicked! They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.

They will be condemned at the time of judgment. Sinners will have no place among the godly.

Those whose counsel I reject do not have such a promise. Their ideas will bring condemnation.

For the LORD watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction. Psalm 1:1-6

Thank You for watching over me. Thanks for laying out my path before me. I pause to hear from You. Counsel me with Your word. Teach me. Lead me. Refresh me. Produce Your fruit in me as I abide in You.

"You are the vine, I am the branches; I bear much fruit as You abide in You and You in me, for apart from You I can do nothing. John 15:5

Your Father is glorified by this, that I bear much fruit, and so prove to be Your disciple. John 15:8

We focus this week on the privilege of access and the wonder of drawing near to God.

Today is a good day to reflect on the great privilege we have to enter God's presence.

I want to direct you to some Old Testament passages that paint a bleak or at least fearsome picture.

Read this passage from Hebrews 12 again.

For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them. For they could not bear the command, "IF EVEN A BEAST TOUCHES THE MOUNTAIN, IT WILL BE STONED." And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I AM FULL OF FEAR and trembling." Hebrews 12:18-21

The incident here comes from the Old Testament. It might be good to take the time to read the original account.

Read Exodus 19 and 20. Enter into the scene. Become one of the Israelites. Try to visualize your surroundings as described here.

Paul listed some frightening Old Testament scenes as an example to us.

I will add the Old Testament reference so that you can go back to the original account.

For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

This is talking about the Red Sea crossing and the cloud that directed them. The baptism refers to the fact that that were identified with Moses in all of these experiences.

and all ate the same spiritual food; (Daily Manna) and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

When Moses struck the rock instead of speaking to it, God severely disciplined him because he failed to “honor God” before the people.

This is a sad commentary on how God felt.

Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.

Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.

This was probably a reference to when they got tired of eating manna and demanded meat.

This can be found in Numbers 11

While the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the anger of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD struck the people with a very severe plague. Numbers 11:33

So they ate and were well filled, and their desire He gave to them. Before they had satisfied their desire, while their food was in their mouths, the anger of God rose against them and killed some of their stoutest ones, And subdued the choice men of Israel. In spite of all this they still sinned and did not believe in His wonderful works. So He brought their days to an end in futility and their years in sudden terror. Psalm 78:29-33

Then they believed his words, and they sang his praise. But soon they forgot his deeds and wouldn't wait for his counsel. In the desert they gave way to insatiable greed; in the wastelands they put God to the test. He gave them what they wanted but sent leanness into their souls. Psalm 106:12-15

Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, “THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY.”

This can be found in Exodus 32. The stood up to “play” was definitely not baseball. It refers to the sexual orgies following the idolatry that ran rampant through the camp.

And the LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you.” Exodus 32:9-10

Then the LORD sent a plague on the people, because they made the calf, the one that Aaron made. Exodus 32:35

Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. (Numbers 25)

Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. (Number 21:4-9)

Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. (Number 14)

Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

God made it clear that they were not to copy the worship practice of the pagans around them.

Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. Then Moses said to Aaron, “It is what the LORD spoke, saying, ‘By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored.’” So Aaron, therefore, kept silent. Leviticus 10:1-3

"When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. Deuteronomy 18:9

When the Ark had been taken by the Philistines and wreaked havoc on them, they were anxious to give it back to Israel. David sent a delegation to retrieve it but failed to transport it according to God's specification.

But when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out toward the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen nearly upset it. And the anger of the LORD burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God. 2 Samuel 6:6-7

After that, David was terrified to try to move it for three months. Finally he tried it again with much greater care.

And so it was, that when the bearers of the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. And David was dancing before the LORD with all his might, and David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouting and the sound of the trumpet. 2 Samuel 6:13-15

Exodus 29-30 contains an elaborate description of the garments the priests who would enter into the holy place were to wear and the cleansing they were to practice.

"It shall be on Aaron when he ministers; and its tinkling shall be heard when he enters and leaves the holy place before the LORD, so that he will not die. Exodus 28:35

When the tabernacle had been completed, God manifested His presence.

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Throughout all their journeys whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the sons of Israel would set out; but if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out until the day when it was taken up. For throughout all their journeys, the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and there was fire in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel. Exodus 40:34-38

The LORD said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that he shall not enter at any time into the holy place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, or he will die; for I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat. Leviticus 16:2

God manifested His awesome glory after Solomon finished the permanent temple.

Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the house. The priests could not enter into the house of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD'S house. All the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of the LORD upon the house, bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to the LORD, saying, "Truly He is good, truly His lovingkindness is everlasting." 2 Chronicles 7:1-3

Revisit Isaiah's encounter with God's presence.

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory." And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. He

touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven." Isaiah 6:1-7

Ezekiel 1 describes his throne room encounter.

Of course Revelation is filled with frightening descriptions of the throne of God.

After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened, and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean and bright, and girded around their chests with golden sashes. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished. Revelation 15:5-8

John paints a most powerful picture of God's throne in Revelation 4-5. Take time to revisit that scene as well as the description of Jesus in chapter 1:9-20

NOW you are ready to fully appreciate the access we have to this very same environment.

And Jesus came and preached peace to you who were far away (Gentiles), and peace to those who were near (Jews); for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. Ephesians 2:17-18

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; **NO ONE** comes to the Father but through Me. John 14:6*

Every time you pray, remember what it took to afford that privilege.

Every time you sin, remember what allows you to enter God's presence.

Tomorrow we will concentrate on passage related to our access.

DAY TWO

Today's praise as we enter His presence comes from Psalm 145.

I will extol You, my God, O King, And I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever. Great are You LORD, and highly to be praised, And Your greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of Your majesty And on Your wonderful works, I will meditate. Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts, And I will tell of Your greatness. They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness. Your O LORD are gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness. You good to all, And Your mercies are over all Your works. All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, And Your godly ones shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom And talk of Your power; To make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts And the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations. You sustain all who fall And raise up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to You, And You give them their food in due time. You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing. You are righteous in all Your ways And kind in all Your deeds. You are near to all who call upon You, To all who call upon You in truth. You will fulfill the desire of those who fear You; You will also hear their cry and will save them. You keep all who love You, But all the wicked You will destroy. My mouth will speak the Your praise O LORD, And all flesh will bless You holy name forever and ever. Psalm 145:1-21

Today we focus on why we have bold access to the awesome holy place.
Through Jesus we can continuously and confidently draw near to God's presence.

Therefore, brethren, having confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Re-read the notes through motivation one.

Motivation One is...

“Having confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus.”

Here are some additional passages to contemplate concerning the awesome truth.

We can draw enter the holy place because the work of Christ gives us confidence, boldness.

This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. Ephesians 3:11-12

God illustrated this access to the holy place by the tearing of the veil that separated the Holy Of Holies from the rest of the temple.

And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. Matthew 27:50-51

*Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But **NOW** in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:11-13*

Read Hebrews chapter 9 through 10:9 and give attention to the parallels and contrasts with the Old Testament tabernacle.

In fact it might be a good exercise to chart out the contrasts.

The priests / Jesus.

Let there be NO doubt about what provides us access to a once blocked place.

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1-2

Our access to this place is so amazing.

Paul indicates that we actually have a perpetual presence.

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Colossians 3:1-4

DAY THREE

Enter His courts today with praise from Psalm 146

Praise You LORD! Let everything about me praise the You. I will praise You as long as I live. I will sing praises to my God with my dying breath. I don't put my confidence in powerful people; there is no help for me there. When they breathe their last, they return to the earth, and all their plans die with them. But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the LORD their God. You made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. You keep every promise forever. You give justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry. You free the prisoners. You open the eyes of the blind. You lift up those who are weighed down. You love the godly. You protect the foreigners among us. You care for the orphans and widows, but frustrate the plans of the wicked. You will reign forever. You He will be my God, O Jerusalem, throughout the generations. Praise You O LORD! Psalm 146:1-10

Today's focus is on the fact that Christ is our mediator.

Review the notes regarding motivation two: having a great priest over the House of God.

Not only did Jesus pay our way but He is there to advocate for us.

There are many additional passages to contemplate regarding Jesus' intercession.

The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:23-25

The prophet spoke for god to man. The priest spoke for man to God. Jesus is actually both.

In this case, He is our perpetual High Priest. The writer of Hebrews made a strong case for the superiority of Jesus over all other Priests.

The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, made perfect forever. Hebrews 7:23-28

Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man. For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer. Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "SEE," He says, "THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN." But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. Hebrews 8:1-6

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, Jesus had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted. Hebrews 2:17-18

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time. 1 Timothy 2:3-6

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. 1 John 2:1-2

Not only has our entrance requirement been fulfilled but we have a sympathetic mediator on the inside; one deeply loved by the Father and who deeply loves us. What better mediator to have!

DAY FOUR

Enter His presence with thanksgiving.

I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders. I will be glad and exult in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High. Psalm 9:1-2

I will give You thanks in the great congregation; I will praise You among a mighty throng. Psalm 35:18

But as for me, I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the lovingkindness of God forever and ever. I will give You thanks forever, because You have done it, And I will wait on Your name, for it is good, in the presence of Your godly ones. Psalm 52:8-9

I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations. For Your lovingkindness is great to the heavens And Your truth to the clouds. Be exalted above the heavens, O God; Let Your glory be above all the earth. Psalm 57:9-11

You are my God, and I give thanks to You; You are my God, I extol You. Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting. Psalm 118:28-29

Today we reflect on the third motivation for confidence to enter the holy place.

We enter with confidence because of the blood of Jesus that paid for my sin.

We enter with confidence because we have a mediator on the inside.

We enter with confidence because God has cleansed our heart.

Read the notes under motivation three; having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” Hebrews 10:22

There are so many passage related to God’s cleansing. We don’t have to go through all the rituals the priest did to enter. We ARE clean through the work of Christ.

The Biblical term is “sanctification” or made holy or purified.

It is a work that God has to do. A polluted person can't clean themselves. It would be like just rubbing the dirt around.

For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. Hebrews 10:14
Jesus took on Himself to purify His bride to present to His Father.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. Ephesians 5:25-27

*By God's will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, **SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD**, waiting from that time onward **UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET**. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. Hebrews 10:9-14*

For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, Hebrews 2:11

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 1 Corinthians 1:30

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. 2 Thessalonians 2:13

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. Titus 2:11-14

Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. 1 Peter 1:22-23

"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. John 15:3

yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach— Colossians 1:22

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jude 1:24-25

Only those who have been fundamental changed on the inside can enter the holy place.
Only those who have been cleansed by God can have union with God.

Rejoice in you cleansing today. Submit to His daily cleansing.

There is a level at which we cooperate with cleansing.

When Jesus washed the disciple's feet (John 13) He illustrated the truth of fundamental cleansing and daily cleansing. Those who have bathed often only need to wash their hands or feet when they get dirty from contact with the world.

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. James 4:8

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Corinthians 7:1

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. 1 John 3:2-3

DAY FIVE

Enter His presence with joy.

You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever. Psalm 16:11

Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright. Psalm 33:1

Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice. Psalm 51:8

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. Psalm 51:12

You have been my help, And in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me. Psalm 63:7-8

My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to You; And my soul, which You have redeemed. Psalm 71:23

For You, O LORD, have made me glad by what You have done, I will sing for joy at the works of Your hands. Psalm 92:4

In light of our forgiveness by the sacrifice of Christ, the writer of Hebrews calls for three stemming from three powerful motivations.

Having confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Christ as our savior...

Having confidence to enter the holy place by the presence of Christ as our High Priest...

Having confidence to enter the holy place by the cleansing of Christ as our Sanctifier...

LET US CONTINUOUSLY DRAW NEAR GOD!

Review the rest of the notes.

The instruction here is to adopt a perspective or life purpose to perpetually and continuously seek a deeper connection with God. Practice His presence. Visualize yourself with a continual connection to the "command Center" of the universe.

This is really the first official purpose of the Chico alliance family.
Continuously cultivate deeper relationship with God.

Here are some other passages related to drawing near to God.

This is also the same as to seek the Lord.

Contemplate these passages and let the Holy Spirit stir your heart to draw near to Him.

Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled, The tyrannical city! She heeded no voice, She accepted no instruction. She did not trust in the LORD, She did not draw near to her God. Zephaniah 3:1-2

Then the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote, Therefore behold, I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous; And the wisdom of their wise men will perish, And the discernment of their discerning men will be concealed." Isaiah 29:13-14

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:25

For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. Hebrews 10:1

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. James 4:8

But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, That I may tell of all Your works. Psalm 73:28

How blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near to You To dwell in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple. Psalm 65:4

Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:6-9

Glory in His holy name; Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad. Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face continually. 1 Chronicles 16:10-11

Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice, And be gracious to me and answer me. When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, O LORD, I shall seek." Psalm 27:7-8

David continually expressed a longing to enter God's house.

Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23:6

One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD And to meditate in His temple. For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock. Psalm 27:4-5

For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand outside. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness. Psalm 84:10

The point of salvation is intimacy with God; to dwell in His presence; to live in His house.

How do we cultivate such intimacy? It is like cultivating ANY relationship.

Review the twelve relationship builders.

Begin to incorporate them in your daily routine.

Set your heart to seek the Lord.