

PURSUING PRAYER

Prayer and Privilege



Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then 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 is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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Drawing Near in Hebrews

Let us then with confidence **draw near** to the throne of grace (4:16)

We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that **enters into the inner place** behind the curtain (6:19)

a better hope is introduced, through which we **draw near** to God (7:19)

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who **draw near** to God through him (7:25)

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to **enter the holy places** by the blood of Jesus (10:19)

let us **draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of faith (10:22)

Exodus 19:11-13

For on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, 'Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it.

Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.'

2 Samuel 6:5-7

And David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the LORD, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah, and **God struck him down there because of his error**, and he died there beside the ark of God.

No matter how innocently it was done, touching the ark was in direct violation of God's law and was to result in death.

This was a means of preserving the sense of God's holiness and the fear of drawing near to Him without appropriate preparation.

– S. Michael Houdmann



Psalm 76:7

But you, you are to be feared! Who can stand before you when once your anger is roused?

Let us then **with confidence** draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Since then **we have a great high priest** who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Hebrews 5:1-4

For every high priest **chosen from among men** is appointed to **act on behalf of men in relation to God**, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can **deal gently** with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer **sacrifice for his own sins** just as he does for those of the people. And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when **called by God**, just as Aaron was.

Job Description and Qualifications of the Old Testament high priests (5:1-4)

A. Job description: To represent men before God by offering gifts and sacrifices for sins (5:1)

B. Qualifications

1. Humanity – taken from among men
2. Purity / Access to God
3. Empathy and compassion
4. Authority

–The Day of Atonement
(Lev. 16:1-22):

- Two goats were used as sin-offerings representing the nation of Israel.

–The blood sacrifice for the nation's sins that year

–The escape goat to carry away the nation's guilt

Since then we have a great high priest
who **has passed through the
heavens**, Jesus, the Son of God, let us
hold fast our confession.

60 Ft.
Height

30 Ft
Width

4
inches
thick



Ripped
from Top
To
Bottom-
God does
away with
the curtain
and the
OT
system of
approachi
ng Him.

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Ah! How often, Christians, hath God
kissed you at the beginning of prayer,
and spoken peace to you in the midst
of prayer, and filled you with joy and
assurance upon the close of prayer!

– Thomas Brooks



Let us then with confidence draw near to the **throne of grace**, that we may **receive mercy and find grace** to help in time of need.

The throne of grace is the place of God's presence, from which grace emanates to the people of God. The only one who was permitted to "draw near" under the provisions of the Mosaic covenant was the high priest who could approach the altar in the most holy place of the tabernacle once a year, on the Day of Atonement. If his ministry was acceptable, the altar of judgment became the place from which mercy was dispensed to the people.

In bold extension of the language of worship the writer calls the community to recognize that through his high priestly ministry **Christ has achieved for them what Israel never enjoyed, namely, immediate access to God and freedom to draw near to him continually.**

- Dr. William L. Lane

We do not come, as it were, in prayer, only to God's almonry where he dispenses his favours to the poor, nor do we come to the back-door of the house of mercy to receive the broken scraps, though that were more than we deserve; to eat the crumbs that fall from the Master's table is more than we could claim; but, when we pray, we are standing in the palace, on the glittering floor of the great King's own reception room, and thus we are placed upon precious ground.

– Charles Spurgeon



Access to the Father is ours. But we still must tremble before our God. He is still holy. Our trembling is the tremor of awe and veneration, not the trembling of the coward or the pagan. We are to fear God not with a servile fear like that of a prisoner before his tormentor but as children who do not wish to displease their beloved Father.

– R. C. Sproul

