

Hebrews 10.19

Drawing Near To God

There are two possible reactions to the idea of God... We will either believe and seek or doubt and hide. There is really no other alternative to His mere presence. Those who make God according to their own imaginations and those who deny his existence as well as the whole spectrum of possible responses between these poles all choose the latter. It is the default position of mankind, God is Holy, we are not. Our sin and our innate knowledge of our filth means that we will not run toward the Holy One unless something outside of us compels and draws us. We will all flee... But the working of God in us through Christ creates the opposite response. We press in, we lean in, we seek Him through whatever it is that we are facing; and the result is the presence of God ... This drawing near is the single most important thing we can possibly do, and it is the work of a lifetime to do it...

I. DRAWING NEAR THROUGH SORROW

- A. We are all guilty under the law of God for the sin of the heart and the outflowing sin of our lives.
- B. We are all filled with the ruin of our sin's consequence and its dominion over our hearts and minds
- C. We are all filled with the despair of our condition and fear that we will never be good enough nor can we ever hope for that mercy which God bestows on those in His favor.

Lamentations 3.55-58

- D. This losing of self-sufficient hope is the most vital first step
- E. Sorrow brings us face to face with the God who comforts and heals...

*“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,”
(1 Peter 3:18, NKJV)*

II. DRAWING NEAR THROUGH CHRIST

A. The Old Covenant allowed Israel to draw near (but only temporarily and distantly near) by the blood of the sacrifices...

“Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness.” (Leviticus 16:15–16, NKJV)

B. His shed blood has appeased the wrath of God and sanctified us for the worship of God

“to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.” (Hebrews 12:24, NKJV)

C. He brings us near as He approaches the Father -

“For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.” (Ephesians 2:18, NKJV)

“through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” (Romans 5:2, NKJV)

D. His vicarious suffering has paid our debt
“knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.”

(Galatians 2:16, NKJV)

E. His faithfulness grants us His own inheritance -

“but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.” (Hebrews 3:6, NKJV)

Romans 8.14-17

F. His blood made the way for our entrance into the presence of God. -

“Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,” (Hebrews 10:19–20, NKJV)

G. His ongoing intercession allows us audience with the Most High -

“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

(Hebrews 7:25, NKJV)

III. DRAWING NEAR THROUGH FAITH

A. Faith in the death of Christ

Romans 10.8-13

B. Faith in God as He declares Himself to be

Hebrews 11.1-3; 6

C. Faith in the reality of God

D. Faith in the Power of God

E. Faith in the goodness of God

F. Faith in the promise of God

G. Faith in the justice of God

IV. DRAWING NEAR BY GRACE

A. The ground is without our merit -

“Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.”

(Romans 11:5, NKJV)

“who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own

purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,” (2Timothy 1:9, NKJV)

B. The work is the work of God

“Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,” (Romans 4:4–5, NKJV)

C. Grace brings forgiveness and acceptance

“to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”

(Ephesians 1:6–7, NKJV)

D. Grace justifies us

“that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

(Titus 3:7, NKJV)

E. Christ is our source of Grace -

“I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus,”

(1Corinthians 1:4, NKJV)

John 1.14-17

F. Contagious grace brings glory to God

“For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.” (2 Corinthians 4:15, NKJV)

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

(1Peter 4:10–11, NKJV)

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” (Ephesians 4:29, NKJV)

G. Grace empowers us for the glory of God

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”

(2Corinthians 9:8, NKJV)

“And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

(2Corinthians 12:9, NKJV)

H. Grace is our future hope

1Peter 1.13-16

V. DRAWING NEAR FOR OUR NEED

A. Mercy and Grace

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16, NKJV)

B. Assurance and Faith

“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.” (Hebrews 10:22, NKJV)

C. Promised inheritance

“for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.” (Hebrews 10:34, NKJV)

D. Forgiveness and sanctification

“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, NKJV)

E.Consolation and stability, an anchor for our souls

“that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,” (Hebrews 6:18–19, NKJV)