

Hebrews 7.25

Coming to God...

The power of Christ to save is reserved for those who come to Him. We come to Him for access to the Father, we come to Him for comfort, we come to Him for hope and life and joy and peace and for so many other things that come ONLY through the risen Son... But make no mistake, there are NONE of those things in any other; nor will the temporary flashes of carnal satisfactions create any way. Jesus Christ ALONE is the promise of God for salvation, and Jesus Christ ALONE is the relief all your burdens and the birth of meaning in the midst of this dark world.

I. COME TO GOD

A. To believe

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11:28–29, NKJV)

a. To lean upon Christ alone

- b. To draw near to Him for all that you need
- c. To trust Him for your supply
- 2. To refuse to come is unbelief -

“But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.” (John 5:40, NKJV)

- 3. He is the only source of life and access to God

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6, NKJV)

“He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.” (1Peter 1:20–21, NKJV)

- 4. And as such, He is the ONLY revelation of the Father to us...

John 6.44-46

John 14.8-14

- B. To worship

- 1. Drawing near to God
 - a. Not necessarily those who come to worship, but more specifically, those

who through worship come near to God, no matter what the background may be...

“And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”

(Ephesians 2:17–18, NKJV)

- b. Thus, Jesus, our High Priest, takes our poor offering of worship and sanctifies, purifies and translates it into something pleasing to the Father.
2. Communing with the Father through the Spirit of Christ

John 16.12-15

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” (Romans 8:26–27, NKJV)

3. Love of God in action and offering

Mark 12.28-34

a. The scribe was not far from the Kingdom of Heaven. He understood what the aim was, but since he did not know Christ, he was still outside. This is the truth for all who seek to worship God from any source or power that is not Jesus. Since He alone provides access to God, no other worship is even recognized AS worship. It is only through the sacrifice of Jesus that we find our poor offerings made acceptable, and more, a sweet-smelling aroma...

“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.” (Ephesians 5:1–2, NKJV)

II. TRUSTING JESUS

There is a dependance which is known to every person who has ever leaned upon someone for something they lack. Perhaps it is knowledge or experience; perhaps it is a resource, perhaps a relationship... but in

all of these we place ourselves in the complete power of those who have what is needed... it is so with us and Christ. We NEED Him and all of His supply, for without Him we have absolutely NO hope whatsoever of reaching God in any manner that is favorable.

- A. For salvation
 - 1. His power and promise to save is the basis for our faith
 - 2. His faithfulness to His own is the ground of our hope
 - 3. His assurance that He will reward those who seek after Him
 - 4. The gift of this faith itself, this wonderful certainty that God will do all that He has promised is rooted and anchored in the person of Christ.

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”
(Hebrews 11:6, NKJV)

“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” (2Corinthians 1:20, NKJV)

B. In worship

1. In obedience to His authority,
 - a. How we worship
 - b. The manner of our practices
 - c. The things we include and the things we exclude are defined by Him
2. We come accepting His mediation, understanding that we have no way to God, even now, except through Him
3. We come in faith that Jesus is alone the way to come to God - to believe that there are other ways or paths is to deny the ONE path God has made... the result is that worship is lost to us.
4. Our Path to Worship
 - a. Not by legal institutions, no by our imaginations, but by His authority and appointment

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.”

(Matthew 28:18–20, NKJV)

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” (John 15:7–8, NKJV)

- b. Dependent upon His mediation for our worship
 - i. His sacrifice makes us and our worship acceptable to God
 - ii. He intercedes continually for us so that WE are made acceptable in the sight of God...

III. OUR FAITH IS IN HIM

A. For Salvation

1. To hope in some other merit or source is to hope in empty promises...
2. To believe that other paths even exist is to deny the Christ who bought you

3. To pretend that all ways are equal in the sight of God is to confess that you are outside of Christ. For all other ways are indeed equal in the sight of God - but they are equal in the sense that all will lead to Hell. There are NO exceptions to this simple truth

B. In Worship

1. The entire foundation of our faith is in His person and His fulfillment of His office as High Priest.

2. Those who believe that God accepts them by any other merit deceive themselves terribly

3. Two parts are needed

a. Our faith in Him is the prerequisite - we must be found in Christ

b. We must exercise ongoing faith that He makes our worship pleasing and acceptable.

c. We lose all benefit when we seek some other path to worship.

4. His intercession is essential.

“For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” (Romans 5:10, NKJV)

5. To abandon Him and seek after some other source or access is foolish and destructive. Those who seek to turn you away from Christ are the enemies of your soul. Those who seek to honor Christ and aim you to Him in all things are the true friends of your eternal soul... they labor for your gain.

“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” (1Timothy 4:16, NKJV)

“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,” (1Timothy 2:5, NKJV)

- a. The very worship of heaven itself is designed to turn us towards Jesus as our only hope... he is the friend to sinners who loves like no other.

Revelation 5.8-14

- b. Here we find the single source and reason for worship in heaven.

Further, it is the joyous reflection of all that God has done to make much of Jesus for there was no other who was worthy, and no other who brings us to God.