

Heb 4:13

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

**God sees and knows everything.**

- everything we think,
- everything we do,
- why we do what we do.

**This means that our attitudes are not hidden from God either.**

2 Cor 11:13-15

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

**Warren Wiersbe,**

Instead of being empowered by the Spirit, these ministers are energized by Satan. Three times, Paul used the word *transform* in referring to their work (see 2 Cor. 11:13-15). This Greek word simply means “to disguise, to masquerade.” There is a change on the outside, but there is no change on the inside. Satan’s workers, like Satan himself, never appear in their true character; they always wear a disguise and hide behind a mask.

**Many have tried in the past to hide from God, but they can’t, we can’t!**

**People can run but they can’t hide.**

All things are naked and open to the eyes to whom we must give account.

**God is omnipresent and omniscient, He understands our thoughts from afar,**

**All things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.**

**Naked is to be stripped or uncovered of any disguise.**

**It’s then in the open before God.**

**The Greek word “*trachēlizō*” means to expose or to lay open.**

**The word was used of the bending back of the neck**

- of wrestlers by their opponent.

**This bending back was used of pulling back the neck of**

- a sacrificial animal as it lay exposed
- before the priest prior to slaughtering it in an offering.

**In other words, nothing was concealed.**

**Verse 13 is really a summary of Psalm 139**

- which teaches God's omnipresence and omniscience.

**Ps 139:1-2**

1 O Lord, You have searched me and known me.

2 You know my sitting down and my rising up;

You understand my thought afar off.

**Ps 139:3**

3 You comprehend my path and my lying down,

And are acquainted with all my ways.

**Ps 139:12**

12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You,

But the night shines as the day;

The darkness and the light are both alike to You.

Examples of everything being open to an all-knowing God.

**Gehazi in the OT book of 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings.**

- Gehazi was a servant, assistant to Elisha
- Elisha was Gehazi's spiritual leader

Gehazi thought Elisha made a mistake by not taking a reward and didn't trust the spiritual leadership God had placed over him.

**Achan was another person who forgot that** all things are open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

**When Israel conquered Jericho, God commanded**

- that everything in that city be destroyed
- except for the gold, the silver,
- and the vessels of bronze and iron
- which were devoted to the Lord's treasury.

**Josh 6:17-19**

17 Now the city shall be doomed by the Lord to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. 18 And you, by all means abstain from the

accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. 19 But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the Lord; they shall come into the treasury of the Lord."

**So the Lord told them to abstain from the accursed things,**

- but Achan disobeyed.

Josh 7:1

1 But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the Lord burned against the children of Israel.

Josh 7:20-21

20 And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I have done: 21 When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it."

**There were consequences of Achan's sin which included**

- Israel losing their next battle at Ai
- even though it was a much smaller city than Jericho.

**We're all familiar with the NT account of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5.**

**A piece of property was sold by them,**

- and they kept part of the proceeds.

**There was nothing wrong with giving only a portion of the money they earned,**

- but they lied by wanting
- to look as generous as others.

Acts 5:3-4

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? 4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

**This clearly shows that God takes lying and deceit seriously within His church.**

**We should always be truthful,**

- especially when it comes to
- dealing with the brethren.

The author closes verse 13 by stating that we will give an account to God!

No one will be able to hide behind anything such as religion saying,

- too busy, didn't know,
- someone else lied to me,

whatever it is, each individual

- is going to be held responsible
- for his own actions.

Heb 4:14-16

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.  
NKJV

In these few verses we see Christ's full deity and full humanity

- clearly manifested for us
- in the juxtaposition.

A juxtaposition highlights contrasts

- showing how things are strikingly different.

Examples would be something like

- light vs darkness, good vs evil etc.

Verse 14 says that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, and that's Jesus.

When the Jewish Christians heard this,

- they would have thought of the high priest
- as the highest religious authority.

The priesthood began with Aaron, Moses' brother (Ex 28:41).

It was the high priest and only he could enter the Holy of Holies in the temple,

- and it was only once a year to make atonement
- for the sins of the whole nation.

The high priest wore a special garment

- thus distinguishing them from others.

The high priest was commissioned by God to bless the people.

Num 6:22-27

22 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 23 "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

24 "The Lord bless you and keep you;

25 The Lord make His face shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you;

26 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,  
And give you peace."

27 "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."

**God Himself said that He would bless them!**

Lev 9:22-23

22 Then Aaron lifted his hand toward the people, blessed them, and came down from offering the sin offering, the burnt offering, and peace offerings. 23 And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, and came out and blessed the people. Then the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people,

**Blessing the people represented God's favor,**

- His protection, grace and peace.

**It wasn't simply a prayer for the people,**

- but a declaration that God was with His people
- and that He was protecting His people.

**Not all priests were respected**

- especially when they became corrupt
- or politically compromised.

**The sons of Eli in 1<sup>st</sup> Sam 2 were such people.**

**They themselves were not high priests**

- but of the priestly family who abused their office
- by taking offerings by force and committing immorality.

1 Sam 2:17

17 Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord, for men abhorred the offering of the Lord.

**They didn't honor the Lord's offering.**

**Reference Malachi from chapters 1 & 2**

We also have NT examples in Caiaphas and Annas.

- The two were very influential
- and were politically tied to Rome.

In the eyes of many Jews, they seemed more like politicians

- than spiritual leaders.

During the time of Jesus,

- the high priests and their assistants
- controlled the temple markets.

God had originally instructed people

- to bring sacrifices from their own flock (Deut 12:5-7).

However, the religious leaders decided to give people an alternative

- in that they began to sell animals
- to those who didn't bring a sacrifice.

The selling of animals turned to greed.

This didn't seem to bother the religious establishment

- since they were profiting so much from
- the sale of animals, grain, oil and salt
- for the various sacrifices.

But it did bother Jesus.

Mark 11:15-17

15 So they (He and the disciples) came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 16 And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple. 17 Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

Both Annas and Caiaphas played leading roles in the plotting of Jesus' death.

The author of Hebrews says in verse 14

- that we not only have a High Priest,
- but He's a Great High Priest!
- He's greater than any high priest of Israel.

Jesus revealed to the Jews

- as greater than someone honored in Jewish society.

**No one was more highly honored**

- than the high priest
- other than the king in authority.

**The high priests of Israel could only offer sacrifices,**

- but they couldn't take away sin.

Then the author tells his readers that this High Priest, Jesus, has passed through the heavens.

**When they heard about Jesus' death and resurrection and His ascension,**

- they may have been thinking of Hebrews 9

Heb 9:24

24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

**Jesus knew perfectly**

- what it was to be human
- and to know God at the same time.

Jesus was without sin.

**But this doesn't mean because He is Jesus,**

- the Son of God that He wasn't tempted.

**He knew the depths and the tensions**

- and the assaults of temptation
- far greater than you or I will ever know.

**Satan, knowing that Jesus is the Son of God,**

- focused his attention more on Jesus
- than on anyone else.

Temptations would have been immeasurably harder for Jesus than for us.

Why!

C.S. Lewis explained it like this: *The person who resists temptation knows more about its real strength than the one who gives in after 10 minutes.*

**We fall into temptation long before Satan has unleashed his full power therefore,**

- we are never exposed to the fiercest temptation
- since we give in long before that stage is reached.

Then we're told to hold fast our confession.

That is to stand firm and not to waver in your faith.

They didn't really have the written word of God yet,

- but they had their confession.

Heb 10:23

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Where is your security? It should be in God.

- So the idea here is that God is faithful to us,
- are we going to be faithful to Him!

Heb 10:38-39

38 And my righteous ones will live by faith.  
But I will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away."

This is speaking of those that are trusting God.

Then he encourages the believers by telling them:

39 But we are not like those who turn away from God to their own destruction. We are the faithful ones, whose souls will be saved.

Heb 4:15-16

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Another translation reads:

Heb 4:15

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,

Ancient Israel had their high priests who represented the people before God.

The high priests were not perfect

- and they didn't always represent well.

But our High Priest understands our weaknesses

- since He faced the same temptations we face,
- yet He didn't sin.

The word "sympathize" as used here in Hebrews

- means to have compassion on or to be touched with.



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

So often people feel guilty, they may experience feelings of unworthiness,

Thank God that we are not saved by our works or by our feelings.

- It's solely on what Christ did for us on the cross.

The author then says to come boldly.

The high priest was only allowed to approach God directly

- and that was once a year.

But we as believers can approach God anytime and anywhere.

We can come boldly to the throne of grace.

What does God's grace look like for us?

I think of Paul, he had a thorn in the flesh,

- not only did he have a thorn, it was given to him.
- It was some sort of trial.

And he prayed 3 times that it be taken from him. Then the Lord said to him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

The same Greek word for grace is used both in Corinthians and in Hebrews

- and it means "to cause joy,
- pleasure, gratification, favor, thanks or gratitude.

God was telling Paul, My grace is all you need.