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Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,[f] Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

The LORD says to my lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet. Psalm 110:1

ACTS 7:55–56; ROMANS 8:34; EPHESIANS 1:20; COLOSSIANS 3:1; HEBREWS 1:3; HEBREWS 8:1; HEBREWS 10:12; HEBREWS 12:2; 1 PETER 3:22; REVELATION 3:21; MATTHEW 22:44; ACTS 2:33

⁵⁵ But he, ⁿfull of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw ⁿthe glory of God, and Jesus standing ⁿat the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see ⁿthe heaven sopened, and ⁿthe Son of Man standing ⁿat the right hand of God."

³⁴ ½Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—
more than that, who wasraised—

who is at the right hand of God, ⊻who indeed is interceding for us. ⁴

²⁰ that he worked in Christ $\underline{\text{w}}$ when he raised him from the dead and $\underline{\text{x}}$ seated him at hisright hand $\underline{\text{y}}$ in the heavenly places,

Put On the New Self

3 $^{\underline{b}}$ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek $^{\underline{c}}$ the things that are above, where Christ is, $^{\underline{d}}$ seated at the right hand of God.

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³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and \underline{h} the exact imprint of his nature, and h eupholds the universe by the word of his power. \underline{h} After making purification for sins , \underline{h} he satdown \underline{h} at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Jesus, High Priest of a Better Covenant

8 Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, $\underline{\ }^{\mu}$ one who isseated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,

¹² But when Christ $^{\underline{1}}$ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he $^{\underline{k}}$ sat down at the right hand of God,

² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, \underline{a} who for the joy that wa s setbefore him endured the cross, despising \underline{b} the shame, and \underline{c} is seated at the rig ht hand ofthe throne of God.

²² who has gone into heaven and $\stackrel{\times}{=}$ is at the right hand of God, $\stackrel{\vee}{=}$ with angels, authori ties, and powers having been subjected to him.

²¹ ¹The one who conquers, ⁴I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as ⁴I alsoc onquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

⁴⁴ ^e"'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet"'?

³³ Ebeing therefore \underline{q} exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the eFather the promise of the Holy Spirit, the has poured out this that you yourselve s are seeing and hearing.

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God's throne is a place of power and authority. In <u>2 Chronicles 18:18</u>, the prophet Micaiah relates his vision of God's throne room, in which spirit beings stand in attendance. Compare this to <u>Job 1:6</u>, where God demands answers from the angelic beings summoned there.

God's throne is a place of majesty and honor. The Bible says that, when Jesus ascended to heaven, He "sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2). There is no higher place than heaven. God is the King of heaven, and Jesus holds the place of honor at God's right hand.

God's throne is a place of perfect justice. "He has prepared His throne for judgment" (<u>Psalm 9:7</u>; cf. <u>89:14</u>). The final judgment, described in <u>Revelation 21</u>, is held before "a great white throne" (verse 11).

God's throne is a place of sovereignty and holiness. "God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne" (Psalm 47:8; cf. 103:19). He does whatever He pleases, and all He does is good.

God's throne is a place of praise. John's vision of heaven includes a scene in which a "new song" is sung in praise to the One who occupies the throne (Revelation 14:3). Around the throne, the praise of God is surely "glorious" (Psalm 66:2).

God's throne is a place of purity. Only the redeemed, those who have been granted the righteousness of Christ, will have the right to stand before His throne (Revelation 14:5).

God's throne is a place of eternal life. God is the Source of life. In heaven, John sees "the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Revelation 22:1).

God's throne is a place of grace. Not only does the throne of God represent judgment for the unbeliever, but it also represents mercy and grace for His children. "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we

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may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (<u>Hebrews 4:16</u>). Inside the Jewish temple was the <u>Ark of the Covenant</u>, which was a "copy of the true" (<u>Hebrews 9:24</u>), and it had a "mercy seat" where God's presence would appear (<u>Leviticus 16:2, ESV</u>).

One day, all creation will bow to the majesty of God's throne (<u>Philippians 2:9–11</u>). The regal beings surrounding the throne of God will "lay their crowns before the throne and say: 'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power'" (Revelation 4:10–11).

Here are five ways to enter into His presence:

1. Acknowledge His presence. Genesis 28:16

Everywhere you go, God is right there. Acknowledge Him! His Word tells us to knock and the door will be opened, to seek Him so that He may be found.

2. Prepare your heart through confession. Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from Your presence,

And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Psalm 51:10-12

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Ask God to reveal to you the sin in your heart and your actions. Ask Him to forgive and cleanse you. Approach God in a quiet place, acknowledge His presence, and ask Him to draw you close.

3. Remove distractions with fasting. Matthew 4:1-11

The reason we are fasting is to draw closer to God. Some may fast food, social media, a sinful behavior, watching television, sports, sugar, or other things, but we are not fasting to lose weight or to be healthier. Those can be good benefits, but the reason for our fast is to grow closer to God. We want to remove distractions so we can enter into His presence and interact with Him more closely.

Our daily food is not bread. It is the presence of God! When you break your dependence on food, you find out what food has to do with your dependence on the Lord.

If you are fasting, establish a food plan, spiritual goals, and a time and place to meet with God, read the Word, and pray. 1 Samuel 3:1-10 Psalm119:9-11

4. Welcome His presence with praise and thanksgiving. Psalm 100:2-5

Serve the Lord with gladness;

Come before His presence with singing.

Know that the Lord, He is God;

It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,

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And into His courts with praise.

Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

For the Lord is good;

His mercy is everlasting,

And His truth endures to all generations. Psalm 100:2-5

We should approach God with gratitude and praise for who He is. Even you have a lot of stress in your life in that moment, you can acknowledge that God loves you and can work in and through your life. Give your burdens to him, stay in His presence, and wait.

5. Wait, pray and listen. Acts 1:7-8

The hardest part for us is waiting, but we need to wait and listen for God to speak and move in His own time. Practice stopping, deep breathing, sitting in the quiet and waiting for Him.

And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:7-8