

Passage: Hebrews 9:6-15

Title: Finding Your J-O-Y

Summary: According to a recent study, one in four American's say they are depressed and empty. In our study today, the Lord will speak to us about finding our J-O-Y!

- J - Jesus First
- O - Others Second
- Y - Yourself Last

Join us as we look into the Words of the Lord, that point and lead us out of darkness, and into His marvelous Light, and the place that we will find true joy, even in such a world and times we live today.

In the fiction of C.S. Lewis, "The Chronicles of Narnia," Aslan the lion, and the little girl Lucy, meet after a time apart...Aslan greets her, "Welcome, child. "Aslan, your bigger," says Lucy. "That's because you are older, little one." She asks, "Not because you are?" Aslan responds, "I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger." And this is what happens as we grow in our faith - we discover our Lord Jesus is far bigger than we imagined. As we grow in Christ, our concept of His greatness and glory expands and deepen. We learn to see Him as bigger and better! This is what Hebrews is all about! The writer explains how Jesus is greater than Judaism. He wants us to be proud of Jesus! He's better than all that came before...

Chapter 9 – Christ and His Mediation: Our Sin is Paid in Full

- The Tabernacle – Its Layout – 9:1-5
- The Tabernacle – Its Mediation One Day a Year – 9:6-10
- Jesus – The More Perfect Tabernacle – 9:11-15
- Jesus – His Last Will and Testament – 9:16-28

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) 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

The Tabernacle – Its Mediation One Day a Year – 9:6-10

Hebrews 9:1–5 (NKJV) ¹ Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. ² For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; ³ and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, ⁴ which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; ⁵ and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

(Hebrews 9:6 NKJV) Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services.

So verse 6 is saying that once the Tabernacle was erected and all the furnishings were in place, the priest would begin their serving (as we have studied in past studies). But, only in the first part of the Tabernacle called the Holy Place, and not the second part called the Holy of Holies.

(Hebrews 9:7 NKJV) But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;

Only one man (the High Priest) could enter God's glory, and only once a year! And when he entered he didn't dare come empty-handed. He came with the blood of a sacrificial lamb...

As I was pondering on this I thought how beautiful this picture is for us as believers as we are told in 1 Peter we are part of the royal priesthood.

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV) ⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

I love that because we have studied two lines of priesthood, through Aaron, the Levitical priesthood, and the other was the priesthood through Melchizedek, who was also the King of Salem (that is Jerusalem), and who we have seen was and is none other than Jesus Christ (see past studies).

Hebrews 7:1 (NKJV) ¹ For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

I love as I see a glimpse we have a path to the priesthood (in a sense) as Peter tells us, and our path is a royal priesthood (thus through a King – hence King Melchizedek), that why our calling is a royal priesthood.

But, thankfully we too do not have to enter the Holy of Holies, as that is reserved for Jesus (the High Priest) to redeem man, not us, and we can rest that we don't have to be redeemer but simply the pointer to THE REDEEMER.

Psalms 49:7 (NKJV) ⁷ None of them can by any means redeem his brother, Nor give to God a ransom for him—

John 13, Jesus washing feet. Christian find a place to serve, and serve with all your heart.

*John 13:3–7 (NKJV) ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. ⁵ After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel with which He was girded. ⁶ Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."*

I love the ministry we "get to" be part of;

The Tabernacle – A model for serving

- The Gate / Courtyard. -The place of praise (worship ministry)
- The Brass Altar -The place of confession (counseling ministry)
- The Brass Laver -The place of meditation on Word (teaching ministry – adults/children)
- The Table of Showbread -The place of petition (meeting others needs and provisions)
- The Golden Candlestick -The place of ministry (missions & evangelism – Light of World)
- The Altar of Incense -The place of intercession (prayer ministry)

I continually, am asked about depression, and I say the way to joy is (Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself last). Many people are depressed because they spend all their time thinking of themselves. We have a high calling.... Fellowshiping with God Himself, and then serving along with Him in the ministry, and when we do we find Joy!

Psalms 16:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

John 15:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

Beloved you were made for so much more, Find your J-O-Y!

(Hebrews 9:8 NKJV) the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.

(Hebrews 9:9 NKJV) It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience;

Over the years a river of blood flowed from the Jewish altar, yet all that blood gained only limited access to God. The endless repetition highlighted the inadequacy of the sacrifice.

(Hebrews 9:10 NKJV) concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.

Tabernacle worship involved outward, superficial rituals regarding diet and hygiene, but it didn't affect the soul. Hand washing protects us from a virus, but it doesn't disinfect our sin or cleanse our sick soul.

People Courtyard Only / Holy Place daily by Priest to Serve

Again, the people wouldn't be allowed to go beyond that outer court. The priest would go into the Holy Place. They would go in daily as they would take care of candle stick, to make sure there was oil, the light was burning as they would change the bread on the table of shewbread and as they would offer daily the incense within this Holy Place.

Holy of Holies Once a Year / Day of Atonement

But the Holy of Holies, that innermost cubicle, was entered only one day out of the year by the high priest. No one else would go in. In Leviticus chapter 16, it tells us a little bit about the entry of the high priest on that day. On the Day of Atonement, the high priest did all of the sacrifices by himself. Thus there were somewhere around sixteen different sacrifices that he had to do. But it was the duty of the high priest only. He could not have the help of the other priests.

Bathe / Change / Confession on Bullock / Kophar

So in Numbers 29:7, The High Priest would remove his gorgeous robe, cleanse himself again in water, dress himself in the simple purity of the white linen. Then there was brought to him a bullock that he had bought with his own resources. He placed his hands on the head and standing there in the full sight of the people, he confessed his own sin and the sin of his family. He would say, oh Lord God, I have committed iniquity. I have transgressed. I have sinned, I and my house. Oh Lord, I ask Thee, cover over or atone for the iniquities, the transgressions and the sins which I have committed. There is the word atonement, it's the Hebrew word, kophar. It's to make a covering. Lord, cover over it. I and my house have sinned, even as it is written in the Law of Moses, thy servant, for in the day he will cover over and atone for you to make you clean from all of your transgressions. Before the Lord, you shall be cleansed.

2 Goats / Cast Lots / Bullock Sacrificed / Coagulate

And for the moment the bullock was left before the altar, then followed one of the unique ceremonies of the Day of the Atonement. Two goats were standing by. Beside the goats was an urn, a little bowl with two lots in it. And they would cast the lot. One lot was marked for Jehovah and the second lot was marked for Azazel, which in the King James is translated, scapegoat. The lots were drawn and laid one on the head of each animal or goat. And a tongued shaped piece of scarlet was tied to the horn of the scapegoat. And for the moment the goats were left. Then the high priest turned to the bullock, which was beside the altar, that is the bullock that he offered for his own sin. Then he killed it. Its throat was slit. The blood was caught by a priest in the basin. The basin was kept in motion so that the blood would not coagulate, for soon it was to be used.

Coals at Altar / Into the Holy of Holies

Then came first of the great moments. The high priest took the coals from the Altar of Incense and put them in a sensor. He took the incense and put it in a special dish. Then he walked into the **Holy of Holies** to burn the incense in the very presence of God! It was laid down that he must not stay too long unless the people of Israel become terrified. The people literally watched with baited breath! When he came out of the presence of God, still alive, there was a great sigh of relief.

Pomegranates and Bells

And when he entered in, he had this robe on with pomegranates and bells around the hem of the robe, that he wore. According to tradition, he had a chain around his foot. When he would enter in, they would wait outside and as long as he was ministering inside, they could hear these little golden bells. If the bells would cease, if there would be dead silence, they would know that God did not receive their offering, that there was some flaw within it. And the high priest who had gone in to offer it, was stricken dead in the presence of the Lord, because God did not accept the offering. Thus the chain on his foot, they wouldn't dare go into get him. So they would pull him out by the chain on his foot. So the access to God, was just not available for anyone. It was only through the high priest that they could have access unto God.

Bullocks Blood / Holy of Holies / Killed Goat / Holy of Holies

And when the high priest came out from the Holy of Holies, he took the basin of the bullock's blood. He went back into the **Holy of Holies** and sprinkled it seven times up, and seven times down. Then he came out and killed the goat that was marked for Jehovah. And with its blood, he re-entered the Holy of Holies and sprinkled again. Then he came out and mingled together the blood of the bullock and the goat, and seven times sprinkled the horns of the altar, the incense and the altar itself. And what remained of the blood, was laid at the foot of the altar of the burnt offering and thus the Holy of Holies and the altar were cleansed by the blood from any defilements that might be on them.

Why all this Blood?

(Hebrews 9:22 NKJV) And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

God through this ceremony, through the years and years of sacrifice, is preparing the way for the perfect sacrifice. God is speaking loud and clear the seriousness of sin, it cost life, someone must die, the animal will cover your sin, but the only way it will be wiped out will be through the Son, Jesus Christ. Also, not just anybody can stroll into His presence, He is a Holy and Awesome God deserving reverence and honor. He is not the "man upstairs." He is the Lord of all Creation, Holy and Pure and is too pure to look upon or wink at sin.

Scapegoat / Hands Laid on Goat

Then came the most vivid ceremony of all! The scapegoat was brought forward. The high priest laid his hands upon it. He confessed his own sin and the sins of the people. The goat was set forth there into the desert. There in the desert the goat was released. The priest who led it out there would watch until the goat had disappeared over the hillside. Now at each high point there was a priest positioned. And when the goat finally disappeared, the priest who had taken the goat there would signal to the priest on the first high point, who would turn and signal to the priest on the second high point because they were all in view of each other. That priest would signal to the next priest, who would signal to the next priest, who would signal to the priest who was on the Mount of Olives, who would then signal to the high priest who was standing at the entrance of the tabernacle. And the signal would come and he would announce to the people, your sins are forgiven and they are departed from you! The scapegoat is a symbol of the separation of your sins. How that God not only forgives, but He separates you from the past, from the sins.

Sins Forgiven for Another Year

And so the people then would all break forth in singing the Hallel Psalms of praise. Their sins have been atoned for, for another year. And that was a ceremony that took place on an annual basis there in the tabernacle. And every year it would be repeated, year after year.

Tabernacle Place of Mediation / Through High Priest / Better Tabernacle

The tabernacle, specifically once a year, was the place of Mediation between God and the people, through the high Priest, for the covering of their sins, for that year. But God had a better way, a perfect eternal way. A High priest according to the order of Melchizedek, Jesus Christ who would go into the Holy of Holies once and for all.

Jesus – The More Perfect Tabernacle – 9:11-15

(Hebrews 9:11 NKJV) But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

Rather than symbolic or ceremonial, Jesus' work was eternal - dealing with "the good things to come." And spiritual - impacting our status in heaven.

(Hebrews 9:12 NKJV) Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

You measure the potency of a cleanser by the number of applications it requires. And the same was true of sacrificial blood. The OT sacrifices were repeated annually, but Jesus offered His blood once and for all. His sacrifice never has to be duplicated or reapplied. The blood of animals covered our sin for a time. They earned a temporary probation. But Jesus provides a permanent pardon.

(Hebrews 9:13 NKJV) For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

Here the author mentions Numbers 19 and the ashes of a heifer. This was the way the Old Covenant was dedicated. A red heifer was sacrificed, and its ashes mixed with water. A hyssop, or leafy twig, was then dipped into the ashy mixture, and sprinkled on all that was being dedicated - people, priest, furniture, or Tabernacle.

(Hebrews 9:14 NKJV) how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Once, "Good Morning America" interviewed Albert Speer, a former Nazi. Speer was the industrial genius that kept Hitler's factories running during World War 2. He was the only one of twenty-four war criminals tried at Nuremberg to admit his guilt. Speer was sentenced and imprisoned for two decades, and was remorseful to the end. Speer said in the interview, "I was jailed 20 years. But I still carry the burden of what happened to millions of people. I can't get rid of it." Sadly, this was Albert Speer's last public statement. He could never rid himself of his guilt and shame.

None of us can! Only the blood of Jesus can cleanse the guilty conscience of an Albert Speer... or your's...

Are you still haunted by something of your past, then hang in here for the rest of this study..... but you don't have to wait to the end, hear the Words of the Lord right now....

.....how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience

Beloved, you are FORGIVEN! IT IS DONE!

John 19:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Now "serve the living God", you were made for so much more..... go find your J-O-Y (Jesus first, Others second, Yourself last!

(Hebrews 9:15 NKJV) And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Access Denied /

As long as that tabernacle stood, it was just signifying that access to the presence of God was not yet available for everyone, only for the high priest, only after the many offerings and sacrifices, did he enter in.

The High Priest and the Offering

Jesus wasn't only the High Priest that went in and made the offering, he was the offering. The perfect lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). On the Cross Jesus was Our High Priest before God, and He was the Lamb be sacrificed there at the altar.

The Veil is Torn / Come into His Presence / Full Access

Jesus brings us into the presence of the Father by tearing the Veil, and we are told it is because He is a High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. It was written in Hebrew writings that the veil was 60 feet by 30 feet, and 10 inches thick. They say it took 100 priests to handle it and hang it. God is saying to the reader come into my presence, come just as you are, the veil, the door has been opened unto you to come into my presence. To the Jewish reader this was radical for their whole life God was separated from them by this veil, only the High Priest could come before Him, and that was only once a year. For many today this is still a radical statement, for they can believe or accept that they can come before God.

Matthew 27:50–52 (NKJV) ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. ⁵¹ Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, ⁵² and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;

Boldly (full confidence) come!

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) 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

Show us the Father / The Glory of God in the Holy of Holies / The Void

“Show us the Father and it will suffice us,” said Philip (see John 14:8). And he was right, for the chabod, the glory of God as seen in the Holy of Holies, is what the heart of every man craves. Man was made to fellowship with his creator. There is a void in every persons heart, God made you like that. Man will try to cram anything and everything he can in there to fill the void, but nothing ever satisfies, for only seeing and fellowship with the Father will feel that void.

John 14:8 (NKJV) ⁸ Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”

Whole World Watching / The Garden Tomb / Forgiveness Forever

Do you see what happened concerning our High Priest? The whole world was watching—without even knowing for what they were watching. And our Great High Priest, wrapped in white linen, emerged from the Holy of Holies on Easter Sunday. The tomb was the Holy of Holies (in a sense), for when the disciples peeked in that morning, they saw a bench sprinkled with blood—His blood where His body had lain. And we are told by the Gospel writer that on either end of the bench sat an angel. Thus the picture of a blood-sprinkled mercy seat was complete. When Jesus emerged from the tomb on the third day, it was a declaration of forgiveness—not just for a year, but for eternity.

Resurrection Brings Confidence / Sacrifice Accepted

Therefore, because of the Resurrection, we are confident that our sin—whatever it is, whatever it was, whatever it will be—is forgiven, forgotten, no longer an issue. The Resurrection is crucial because if Jesus had not come back from the dead, we would never know if the offering took. And we had no other Priest to send in.

Beautiful Message / Lamb Inspected – not the Worshipper

This is truly the better tabernacle and covenant. Here is the beautiful message here for us today. When a Jewish person went to the temple to worship, he would bring a lamb to offer on the altar. After careful examination by the priest, if the lamb was found to be without spot or blemish, the worshiper could worship confidently. You see, the priest never inspected the person—only the lamb. Satan will try to whisper in your ear, “You’re blemished. You’ve dropped the ball. You haven’t been a woman of prayer. You haven’t been a man of integrity. You can’t worship. You can’t talk to the Father. You can’t be blessed.”

Exodus 12:3–7 (NKJV) ³ Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: ‘On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man’s need you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ Now

you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. ⁷ And they shall take *some* of the blood and put *it* on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

But he's wrong. At the temple, the priests didn't inspect the worshiper. They inspected the lamb. The same is true of you and me. "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," declared John the Baptist—which is why three days before His crucifixion, Jesus Himself was scrutinized as the scribes and Pharisees, Sadducees, and Greeks questioned His theology, His morality, and His integrity (Matthew 22). Pilate's declaration that he found no fault in Jesus meant He passed even their inspection perfectly.

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

1 Peter 1:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Luke 23:4 (NKJV) ⁴ So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man."

High Priest Inspected / Rose Again / Come Boldly

And on the Day of Atonement, God inspected the High Priest, if he wasn't acceptable, he was struck dead and the sins of the people would not be forgiven for that year. God accepted our High Priest Jesus Christ, His Son, and we know he was accepted because not only did He make the offering, was the offering, he rose again on the third day.

Therefore, we can come to the Father confidently and talk to Him freely based not upon our righteousness, but solely on the perfection of the Lamb.

Quit Your Works

(Hebrews 9:14 NKJV) how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Now one of the things that these sacrifices couldn't quite do, is that they couldn't completely remove the sense of guilt. That animal had to be killed because of my sin. It was a sacrifice and it was bearing my sin. It died in my place. Yet, it didn't, because you had to do it over and over again, there wasn't the complete sense of forgiveness from the guilt. So these sacrifices of the tabernacle were a figure for the time then present in the which were offered both the gifts and the sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

(Psalms 103:12 NKJV) As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Our works can never justify us or bring us cleansing from our sins. Our works, according to God, are as a filthy rag in His sight! Thus, to try to offer to God our works, for an atonement of our sins is ludicrous. God has made provision through Jesus Christ that we no longer by dead works try to serve the living God.

In the fiction of C.S. Lewis, "The Chronicles of Narnia," Aslan the lion, and the little girl Lucy, meet after a time apart...Aslan greets her, "Welcome, child. "Aslan, your bigger," says Lucy. "That's because you are older, little one." She asks, "Not because you are?" Aslan responds, "I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger." And this is what happens as we grow in our faith - we discover our Lord Jesus is far bigger than we imagined. As we grow in Christ, our concept of His greatness and glory expands and deepens. We learn to see Him as bigger and better! This is what Hebrews is all about! The writer explains how Jesus is greater than Judaism. He wants us to be proud of Jesus! He's better than all that came before...

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In Every Study

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- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) 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