

Spiritual Growth Questions for June 28, 2020
(take one question each day and grow deeper in Bible study)

Opener: Describe a time when you experienced an answer to prayer.

1. **Read Hebrews 4:14-16 three times.** What do you think the writer is trying to convey to this Hebrew church as they suffer persecution? What stands out to you?
2. The writer tells us to hold fast to our confession in Hebrews 4:14. **Read Hebrews 4:14, 6:18, 10:23, Revelation 2:13, 2:25, 3:11.** Discuss what holding fast looks like from these verses? Why can it be hard to hold fast to your confession?
3. **Find** the three attributes and descriptions of Jesus in **Hebrews 4:14**. How does each one help us hold fast? How do they inform and articulate our confession of faith?
4. Read this quote from NT Wright: "Don't make the mistake that some Christians have made, of imagining Jesus, after becoming human in the incarnation, stopped being human after his death. One of the central beliefs of the early Christians, not least in this letter and those of Paul, is that Jesus remains fully and gloriously human, and that it is as a human being that he rules the world. When he represents us before the Father, he isn't looking down on us from a great height and being patronizing about those poor creatures down there who can't really do much for themselves." **How does it affect you knowing that Jesus can sympathize with your weaknesses?**
5. **Read Hebrews 4:15, 2:17-18.** Explain the difference between temptation and sin? How could Jesus be tempted and yet without sin? How can this truth help us hold fast during these days?
6. **Read Hebrews 4:16, 2 Corinthians 12:5-10.** What does it look like for believers to approach the throne of grace with confidence? How does Paul provide an example of this for us?
7. Consider breath prayers, psalmist prayers, scriptural prayers and written prayers. Which one helps you the most?
8. What causes you apprehensiveness to draw near the throne of grace with confidence? What things in your life prevent you from approaching the Lord with confidence? How can we come alongside you in your journey right now?

Better with Jesus: A Study of the Book of Hebrews
Jesus Makes a Way for us to Pray
Hebrews 4:14-16. June 28, 2020
Pastor John Lloyd

The book of Hebrews presents the greatness of Christ like no other New Testament writing. The author knew that by remembering and lifting up Jesus, he would help the readers endure their difficult circumstances. As this book is read, it demands a response. Today, we will look at how real rest comes to us through prayer. During these times of highs and lows, Jesus makes a way for us to have direct access to God to find grace and mercy to help in times of need. Jesus makes a way for us to pray!

Hebrews 4:14 Since then 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 is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Holding firmly to our confession of Jesus as the resurrected Christ, encourages us to approach His throne of grace with confidence.

Key Idea: Jesus understands and helps us.

Key questions: What did Jesus do? Why is it important? How can it help me in my day to day life?

Passionate Welcome, **Passionate Word**, Passionate Worship, Passionate Witness and Passionate Way of Life.

What did Jesus do?

I. Since Jesus is a superior high priest, hold firmly to the _____ we profess.

Hebrews 4:14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession

This is the first mention of Jesus by name. The historical Jesus is the grounds for their faith. Jesus helps us hold fast to our confession. We have a great high priest! He is near to us, not a God far off, but a present help in time of need.

Old Testament High Priest:

Passed through three portals: bore the blood through the outer court, entered the Holy Place and then through the veil the Holy of Holies One time a year on the day of atonement (Yom Kippur).

Jesus our High Priest:

Three portals: passed through the first heaven (the atmosphere) The second heaven (outer space). Finally to the third heaven (the most holy place of all, the presence of God, 2 Corinthians 12:2-4. Jesus then sat down because his atoning work was finished.

Let us hold fast our confession- our public confession of faith. Hold firmly 47x in New Testament can refer to the grasping of a person.

Hebrews 2:17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. Hold fast to this confession- Jesus is a merciful and faithful high priest!

**We confess Jesus as the resurrected Christ!
This confession brings stability in unstable times.**

Why is it important?

II. Jesus understands what we need to endure _____.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to **sympathize** with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Sympathize- Jesus does not imagine how we feel; he feels it! As opposed to being unable to feel anything at all. To be compassionate to the point of helping. Jesus has access to us and by grace we have access to Him.

Has been tempted- the exalted Christ carries with him his earthly experiences of resisting sin. He continues to know what it was like to be tested just as we are. Kent Hughes. 1 Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 7:25

Only he who resisted temptation to the end knows its full weight. Carson

Hebrews 9:24 For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Matthew 6:9-10 Hebrews 9:14. He knows we need purification to serve him.

**Jesus, our great high priest understands us!
Go to Jesus when you are being tempted!**

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Jesus is the only person who could possibly save us from the power and penalty of sin. Do you want sympathy? Go to Jesus!

How can it help me in my daily life?

III. Drawing near to the throne of grace unleashes _____ needed to endure trials. Jesus help us in our trials!

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Draw near - constantly approaching the throne of grace.

Mercy - for past failures, to set us free from the sin and folly which would otherwise sink us completely.

Grace - to meet our present and future needs. Grace to strengthen us and set us on our feet for our own lives of service and witness. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

“If Jesus were not our high priest, we could not stand before God. We would be cast from his presence for all eternity. And yet, no Christian lives under this threat. Righteous judgment has been replaced by radical mercy.” Al Moehler

Jesus invites us to share our deepest and most personal needs with him. His mercy and grace are the actual resources we need to bring stability to our souls.

Prayer is the exercise of drawing on the grace of God. **Chambers**

Breath prayers, Psalm prayers, scriptural prayers, written prayers

Confession: Jesus is the resurrected Christ! Jesus is Lord! Jesus is in control! Jesus is near! Jesus is....

Jesus knows how to help me! I can approach the throne of grace with confidence. I have a Savior who understands me and will help me!

Reflective questions: Is my faith self-centered or Jesus centered? Do I really dare to lean all the weight of my faith and hope on Jesus? Do I trust him that much?

If you haven't trusted Jesus and He isn't your Great High Priest, He can be. He wants to be! Come in repentance and faith and He will save your soul. Why go on bearing that heavy load alone when Jesus will help you?