

## Spiritual Growth Questions for August 30, 2020

(take one question each day and grow deeper in Bible study)

**Opener:** Use short expressions of praise and gratitude for all that Jesus is and for all that he has accomplished for the world and for you individually.

Hebrews 7:23 here were many priests under the old system, for death prevented them from remaining in office. 24 But because Jesus lives forever, his priesthood lasts forever. 25 Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save<sup>[a]</sup> those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf. 26 He is the kind of high priest we need because he is holy and blameless, unstained by sin. He has been set apart from sinners and has been given the highest place of honor in heaven 27 Unlike those other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices every day. They did this for their own sins first and then for the sins of the people. But Jesus did this once for all when he offered himself as the sacrifice for the people's sins. 28 The law appointed high priests who were limited by human weakness. But after the law was given, God appointed his Son with an oath, and his Son has been made the perfect High Priest forever.

I. Use the **S.O.A.P.** Bible study method for the Passage above:

**Scripture-** Read this passage three times with an open heart and ask the Lord Jesus to speak to you.

**Observation:** Write down what you see in this passage. Make as many observations as you can.

**Application:** Write down how you will be different because of what you have just read. Look for lessons to be learned, examples to be followed, promises to be enjoyed, How is Jesus revealed?

**Prayer:** Write out a short prayer.

II. Read the following scriptural prayers: **Ephesians 1:16-23, 3:14-21, Colossians 1:9-12, 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, 2 Thess. 3:16.** Choose one of the above passages and apply the S.O.A.P. study method. Which one of these passages could we pray for you this week? Who could you be praying one of these passages for this week?

Better with Jesus: A Study of the Book of Hebrews

Jesus: Our High Priest Intercessor

Hebrews 7:23-28. August 30, 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 consider Jesus Christ as our high priest interceding on our behalf. Some have asked me: What is Jesus doing in heaven right now? Our Father in heaven is deeply caring and praying for His children! May this truth encourage us to pray boldly during these times for those who need Jesus or have relational, physical, economic, mental and/or emotional needs.

Hebrews 7:23 The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, 24 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. 25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. 26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. 27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. 28 For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

**Key questions:** What makes the priesthood of Jesus so special? What is Jesus doing in heaven right now? How can I improve my prayer life?

I. The priesthood of Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ and knows no limits.

Hebrews 7:23 The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, 24 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.

Continual succession vs. the one who continues.

Permanently – unchangeable, Jesus will hold this office forever.

“We could not hope to draw near eternally to the eternal God through a dead priest.” Philip Hughes

Hebrews 7:25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Jesus provides salvation for us perpetually and completely. There is no unevenness of service. You will never have another high priest. Moehler

Save to the uttermost – panteles (pan-all teleos- end/termination) He is able to save us in totality of our being: body, soul and spirit. He saves us right up to our last breath and for eternity.

“Jesus saves us not only in the moment of our initial commitment, but day by day, and moment by moment.” Raymond Brown

Romans 8:34 Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God’s right hand, pleading for us. NLT

Hebrews 2:18 Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested. NLT. (Hebrews 4:16)

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.

**Jesus is perpetually praying for us! Draw near to Him.**

II. The sacrifice of Jesus has put us in position to \_\_\_\_\_.

Hebrews 7:26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

Radical holiness vs. radical sinfulness

The priesthood of Jesus provides the perfect answer to what we need. Moehler

Hebrews 7:27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself

The sacrifice of Jesus is so perfect that it needs no repetition. Carson

Hebrews 7:28 For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Isaiah 53:12b because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

**Jesus made it possible for each of us to pray boldly.**

III. Let’s use this time to pray big \_\_\_\_\_ for the rest of 2020!

***Ask for the nations:***

Psalm 2:8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

***Pray for God to add souls:***

Acts 2:46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

***Pray for seemingly impossible situations:***

Genesis 18:14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”

***Pray for protection for every follower of Jesus:***

John 17:14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

John 17:21-23. Prayer for unity among the people of God!

Colossians 1:9-12. Great prayer for our personal walk with God.

***Pray this prayer for yourself and others:***

Ephesians 3:16 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. 17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. 18 And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. 19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. 20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, **to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.** 21 Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

**Jesus our faithful high priest is praying for us.  
Let’s pray boldly to Him!**