

Grace to Help in Time of Need

HEBREWS 4:12-16; NEW KING JAMES VERSION

¹²For 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. ¹³And 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.

¹⁴Seeing 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. ¹⁵For 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. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

THE WORD OF GOD

God's word is the means through which he expresses his will and accomplishes his purposes. When we encounter the word of God, it gets beneath the surface and penetrates our very souls and spirits. It reveals what we really think and why we do what we do. God sees us for who we really are and expects us to be honest and transparent with him.

THE HIGH PRIESTLY MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST

God extends compassion and grace to us through the high priestly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. A priest is a person who represents God before the people and who represents the people before God. See Hebrews 5:1. Additionally, see Leviticus 17:11 and Hebrews 9:22.

THREE MAIN POINTS

1. Jesus Christ gives us unhindered access to God the Father. – vs. 14
2. As a man, Jesus understands our weaknesses and limitations. – vs.15
3. Because of Christ, we can obtain mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. – vs. 16

Point 1—See John 14:9 and Isaiah 53:5

The high priesthood of Jesus Christ is superior to all other priesthods, for Jesus Christ is the very Son of God. If a priest represents God before the people, then what better representative could we have than the Son of God himself? In Christ, we have full access to the Father's presence, power, and provision. Christ has removed everything that prevents us from enjoying what the Father supplies. We do not have to be timid in drawing near to God in prayer or in proclaiming his goodness to others during challenging times because our Great High Priest has removed all barriers that once stood between God and us.

Point 2—See Psalm 86:15; Psalm 145:8-9; Lamentations 3:22-23; and Colossians 2:9

Jesus Christ is a compassionate high priest. Compassion is "love in action." It is the ability to feel what someone else feels and involves an inward desire to relieve his/her pain. Although he was the second Person of the Trinity, the Lord humbled himself and became a human being. Since he is both God and man, Jesus Christ is a perfect High Priest. As God, he has all the available resources for our salvation. As a man, he understands our human weaknesses and limitations and can sympathize and empathize with us. As the Son of God, he can perfectly represent the ways of God to us. As the Son of Man, Jesus knows quite well how much we truly need God's mercy and grace.

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Point 3—Hebrews 4:16; see also Hebrews 10:19-23

We can come before God with boldness because Jesus Christ has already made every necessary provision to meet our needs. When God withholds negative consequences from us that's called mercy. When he extends favor to us that we did not earn, that's called grace. Both mercy and grace are freely available to us because of the Lord's compassionate understanding of our human weaknesses and limitations. Hebrews 4:16 makes it clear that we are welcome at God's throne! When we come before his throne of grace, we can do so with full confidence and assurance that he will meet our needs when the time is right!