

Rediscovering Worship Drawing Near

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

Drawing Near as Worship

- The Greek word *proserchomai* (Strong's G4334, meaning “to approach, to come near, to worship”) appears seven times in Hebrews to describe a believer approaching God.
 - 4:16 – “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace...”
 - 7:25 – “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him...”
 - 10:1 – “...can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.”
 - 10:22 – “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith...”
 - 11:6 – “...he that cometh to God must believe that he is...”
 - 12:18 – “For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched...”
 - 12:22 – “But ye are come unto mount Zion...”
- All these appearance in Hebrews have to do with man approaching God and can be applied to our concept of worshipping Him.
- Meeting or approaching God is a common them in Scripture: Adam and Eve met with God in the Garden (Genesis 3:8), Moses brought the people to meet God at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19:17), and the Psalms speak of entering His gates and courts (Psalm 100:4).
- We have a command (or call) to draw near to God with the promise that He will in return draw near to us – James 4:8

Hindrance to Drawing Near

- Because of the holiness of God, sin has been the primary hindrance for man drawing near to God since the Fall – Genesis 3:8-12
- Man is keenly aware of their sinfulness when the holiness and power of God are displayed – Exodus 20:19, Job 42:5-6, Isaiah 6:5, Daniel 10:6-8, Luke 5:8-9, Revelation 1:16-17
- The Old Testament allowed only limited access to God through its imperfect sacrifices. The presence of God was realized in above the Ark of the Covenant in the Tabernacle/Temple. It was only approached on one day a year by one person on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16).

- The New Testament shows that we have greater access to God because of Christ's sacrifice (Hebrews 4:16). This is not because God is made less holy or that He overlooks our sins. We only have such access because we are granted Christ's righteousness (II Corinthians 5:21, Romans 4:22-23).
- "If we cannot draw near to God in worship simply with nothing more than faith in Jesus Christ, then perhaps we are not worshiping at all." – Scott Aniol

Two Examples

- The case of King Uzziah is a warning against approaching God on our own terms - II Chronicles 26:16-23
 - He was lifted up in pride and attempted to intrude on the High Priest's office – vs. 16
 - He went ahead though warned not to proceed – vs. 17-18
 - God smote him with leprosy as punishment – vs. 19-21
 - Lesson – we must approach God on His terms, which includes our sins being atoned for by a proper sacrifice.
- The case of Isaiah is an example of approaching God on His terms – Isaiah 6:1-13
 - He is invited and brought into the presence of God – vs. 1-4
 - He confesses His sins before God – vs. 5
 - God removes the sin barrier through sacrifice – vs. 6-7
 - Of the two altars (the Brazen Altar of sacrifice and the Golden Altar of incense), only the Brazen Altar continuously had fire and coals.
 - God fellowships with Isaiah – vs. 8-13