

“Let Us Draw Near”

Hebrews 10:19-22

June 9, 2024

I. What is it to “draw near”?

- A. Believers are to draw near *to God*, specifically God the Father.
- B. We draw near to our Father in heaven when we pray privately.
- C. We draw near to God the Father in public worship.

Hebrews 12:22–23a - ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect.

II. What are the *grounds* for our drawing near?

- A. The confidence won for us through Christ’s death which made a *way* for us into God’s presence. (Heb. 10:19-20)
- B. Christ’s ongoing high priest work of intercession. (Heb. 10:21)

Hebrews 7:25 -Therefore, He is able also to save forever those who **draw near to God through Him (the new and living way)**, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

- C. It’s always been our Father’s will for Jesus to provide the grounds for our drawing near:

Ephesians 3:11–12 - ¹¹ This [our salvation] was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He [God the Father] carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

III. What is the *way* we’re to draw near?

- A. With a true heart and the full assurance of faith. (Heb. 10:22)
- B. We arrive at this by “having our hearts sprinkled clean from a guilty conscience” and by “having our bodies washed with pure water.”
- C. The references to sprinkling and washing are most likely a continuing reference to the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16).
 - 1. Sprinklings and bathing were regular elements of that ceremony.

2. Hebrews 8-9 have spelled out Christ's superiority over the Old Covenant Day of Atonement:
 - a. His once for all sacrifice has truly taken away our sin.
 - b. Believers are free to have clear consciences before the Lord.
 - c. They are already legally perfect. (Heb. 10:14).
3. Heb. 10:22 is tell us to appropriate those objective, historical truths to our *own* hearts as we draw near to God.
 - a. Remembering that we've been "sprinkled" with His shed blood.
 - b. Believing we've been "washed".
4. Drawing near with a clear conscience often involves confession of our ongoing sins.

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- a. Christ's once for all self-sacrifice has paid for our sins forever.
- b. We experience *relational* restoration to our Heavenly Father when we confess our sins.
- c. He promises to always forgive us because He wants us to draw near with the full assurance of faith.