

DRAW NEAR TO GOD

(Hebrews 10:1-31)

DAY ONE READING AND QUESTIONS:

¹The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ²If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, ⁴because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

⁵Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,

but a body you prepared for me;

⁶with burnt offerings and sin offerings

you were not pleased.

⁷Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—

I have come to do your will, O God.’”

⁸First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”

(although the law required them to be made). ⁹Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the

second. ¹⁰And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

1. *If animal blood cannot take away sin, why did God command such sacrifices?*
2. *Jesus came to do God's will. What does this have to do with sacrifices?*
3. *If we have been made holy once for all through the sacrifice of Jesus, do we continue to feel guilty about our sins? Should we?*

DAY TWO READING AND QUESTIONS:

¹¹Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹²But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. ¹³Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, ¹⁴because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

¹⁵The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

¹⁶"This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."

¹⁷Then he adds:

"Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."

¹⁸And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.

1. *If the sacrifices offered at the temple can never take away sins, why did the priests offer them?*
2. *How does the sacrifice of Jesus make us perfect forever?*
3. *Why do we no longer need a sacrifice for sin?*

DAY THREE READING AND QUESTIONS:

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

1. *Do you feel confident before God? What gives us confidence to enter God's presence?*
2. *What does it mean to have our hearts sprinkled? How does this change our lives?*
3. *Does having our bodies washed refer to baptism? If so, what happens in baptism?*

DAY FOUR READING AND QUESTIONS:

²³Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵Let us not give up meeting

together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

²⁶If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, ²⁷but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. ²⁸Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” ³¹It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

1. *Why should Christians meet together? Is this the purpose of the Christian meetings you have experienced?*
2. *What does it mean to insult the Spirit of grace? How would one do this?*
3. *After strong words of assurance, that we can draw near to God, why does Hebrews have such a frightening warning of judgment?*

DAY FIVE READING AND QUESTIONS:

Go back and read the entire passage.

1. *Notice how many times this passage says “once” or “once for all.” Why is this repeated?*

2. *Are you confident that the sacrifice of Jesus forgives you? What boosts that confidence? What threatens that confidence?*
3. *If our hearts have been cleansed from a guilty conscience, should we never feel guilty? What is the place of guilt in the life of a Christian?*

MEDITATION ON HEBREWS 10:1-31

Do you feel near to God? Or do you sometimes feel far away? I must admit at times I feel near and at times I feel far.

When do we feel far away from God? Usually when we are most conscious of our sinfulness, when we take a good look at ourselves. Much of the time we can fool ourselves into thinking we are pretty good people, better than most. But then we crash head-on into reality. We lose our temper, betray those we love, and live out our selfish desires. It is then we feel far away from God.

How can we draw near to God when we are sinful? We can't. But we can draw near when we trust He has taken away our sins. Once for all. Forever. By his sacrifice Jesus has made us perfect forever. Forgiven forever. Holy forever.

All he asks is that we trust his forgiveness. If we do, then we come before God with complete confidence, not confidence in ourselves but in Jesus.

This is the amazing Spirit of grace that God gives us in Christ. All we must do is accept it. However, if we will not, if instead we wallow in our sinfulness and selfishness, then we insult the Spirit of grace, trample the Son of God underfoot, and reject the blood that bought us.

The choice is ours. We cannot choose to make ourselves worthy enough to come into God's presence. We can choose to trust that Jesus makes us worthy. Draw near to God!

“Father, you have sacrificed your Son, you have given us your Spirit of grace, you have forgiven us once for all. Lord may we joyfully embrace your holiness and draw near.”