



Get a Grip on your Faith in Approaching God

January 25, 2004

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Introduction:

Hebrews 4:16 – **Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**

How do you approach God to seek for His grace?

Some people don't approach God because they are fearful of God. Some people don't approach God because they think it would be selfish of them to bother God with their needs. Some people approach God wondering if God actually hears them, and cares about them.

The word approach or come means to draw near. Our text encourages us to draw near to God, but to do so in a particular manner.

James 4:8 – **Come near to God and he will come near to you.**

There is a promise here that when we approach God, when we do our part to get close to God, He will do His part to come close to us. I'm thankful that God is eager to be close to us, and as we take steps to get close to Him, He responds.

- Approach God and His throne with confidence.
- Do not come fearfully to God.
- Do not come timidly.

I. Approaching God – with boldness (confidence)

What does it mean to come near the throne of God's grace in this manner? He is God and He loves, we are instructed to approach Him confidently.

The word confidence or boldly here means to be frank, blunt and public. We have all had opportunity at some point in our lives to meet someone who is bold. When I think of someone that is bold, I think of one who stands out, is loud, noticeable, and gets attention.

When it comes to God we don't have to hide the fact that we are coming to Him, nor do we have to hide what it is we seek and need from Him. A primary reason for coming to God is that we might find His grace.

What do we mean when we say we need His grace? The word grace has to do with God's divine influence in our lives. So when we seek His grace, we are looking for God's influence to be seen in our life or in our need. We seek His influence in our thinking, our actions, our decisions, and our attitudes. The

grace of God is seen in our life through joy, gratitude, thankfulness etc.

I know I need the grace of God or His divine influence in every aspect of my life. I need God's grace in my thoughts. I need God's grace in my decisions. I need God's grace in my relationships with my family and friends and brothers and sisters in Christ. I need God's grace on my job. We do not have to give a second thought that when we come to God, He will withhold the grace and mercy we seek Him for and we need. We are told in our text to approach His throne boldly so that we will receive the grace and mercy we need in our time of need.

We are told here to come to the throne. The throne speaks of the place of power and authority in our lives.

Jesus said come unto me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. He also said take my yoke upon you and learn of me for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

I shared last week the aspect of getting a grip on our faith, that Jesus is our great high priest. He has certain duties that He is responsible for in heaven that He carries out on behalf of His people. He is our mediator, the one who acts on our behalf and pleads our case before God.

II. Approaching God – with faith

A tale is told about a small town that had historically been “dry,” but then a local businessman decided to build a tavern. A group of Christians from a local church were concerned and planned an all-night prayer meeting to ask God to intervene. It just so happened that shortly thereafter lightning struck the bar and it burned to the ground. The owner of the bar sued the church, claiming that the prayers of the congregation were responsible, but the church hired a lawyer to argue in court that they were not responsible. The presiding judge, after his initial review of the case, stated that “no matter how this case comes out, one thing is clear. The tavern owner believes in prayer and the Christians do not.”

J.K. Johnston, [Why Christians Sin](#), Discovery House, 1992, p. 129.

Do we believe when we pray that God is hearing us?
Do we have a grip on our faith that when we come

boldly, with frankness, and even in a public way, not hiding the fact we are seeking for God's influence in our life, that God will respond to our prayer and our need?

Hebrews 11:6 – And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

When we approach God, we need to do so with faith. What I mean by that is that if you are going to approach God, don't approach Him with unbelief. Rather approach Him believing that He exists, and that He longs for us to come to Him.

Without the aspect of faith in our lives, it is impossible to please God. If you want to please God, get a grip on your faith. We have to believe that He exists and He will reward those who seek him.

The word reward comes from a Greek word that means to remunerate, to pay back. Then this verse also goes on to say that this remuneration comes to those who are diligent in their search for Him. That diligence means to investigate, crave, demand, worship enquire or seek after carefully and diligently.

How does God reward those who seek Him? He draws near so we have a clearer view of who He is. He rewards with the blessing of answered prayer. He rewards with blessing by dispensing grace and mercy in our time of need. He rewards by responding to us personally.

James 1:5-8 - If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

If we lack wisdom we should ask God. According to James, the wisdom of God is dispensed generously. It is also obvious here that when we ask we must believe and not doubt.

The inference here is that those who doubt are like one who is tossed and not calm and settled. Whatever comes along will blow and toss that person wherever

it might. The person in that condition or state should not expect to receive anything from God. If we expect to receive anything from God, that expectation must be based on faith.

Once again we see the importance of having a grip on faith.

You may be saying well I don't have a lot of faith. Jesus said this to His disciples, (**Matthew 17:20**) **"I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."**

Faith makes possible what seems to be beyond our understanding, and our strength, and our ability. With what seems to be an insignificant amount of faith in terms of the largeness of what needs to be done, nothing will be impossible for you.

It's important, that we realize that God is ready waiting to pour out His grace and mercy on us if we will trust Him. What is important is that we believe God's ability to meet us.

It is not the volume or quantity of faith that gets the job done. It is if the faith is active on truth. Just a small amount of faith is adequate.

III. Approaching God for the right reason – to find mercy and grace to help in time of need.

Our approach to God should not be to further our own agenda. God has promised to supply our need, and each of us definitely has need for God's grace and mercy to be extended to us. Anytime we approach God in faith seeking for His mercy and grace, we can be assured that He will extend His mercy and grace to us.

Conclusion:

We have a mighty God – our faith should be strengthened this morning. We are encouraged to get a grip on our faith. God wants us to approach Him with boldness – confidence. He wants us to approach Him in faith. Remember we can not even please Him without faith. We must believe that He is and He is ready to remunerate those who diligently seek for Him. Then as we seek for Him, He will reward us by granting us His grace and mercy. We find that His grace and mercy are always there for us in the time of need.

We have already talked about the grace of God; let's talk about the mercy of God. The grace of God has to do with His divine influence in our lives; the mercy of God has to do with His compassion.

Because God created us, He knows we have choices to make with our will. Because God wants us to have fellowship with Him, we were created for that purpose; He shows us compassion when we seek Him. He is merciful – not repaying us for our sin, but granting us forgiveness and mercy, undeserved favor.

God is full of compassion or mercy listen to some of these verses that underscore this truth.

Exodus 33:19 – And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."

This is part of a conversation that Moses is having with God when God gave Moses the law to give to the people of Israel. In other words, He is God and He will do what He wants to do.

David writes in Psalms about God's compassion. He certainly knew the grace and mercy of God personally. He knew it when He was anointed as King. He knew it when Saul tried to take his life a number of times before David came to the throne. He knew God's grace and mercy when He sinned after he was king.

Psalms 86:15 – But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Psalms 103:13 – Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.