
Drawing Near to God

Hebrews 10:19-22

Access to God is God's greatest gift to the believer. And worship to God is the believer's most appropriate response to Him. Worship is therefore the supreme duty of every creature of God for time and eternity (Psalm 95:6-7; 29:2; cf. Psalm 16:8-9). To worship God means to ascribe to Him honor, adoration and glory. God commands and seeks worship from His people; worship that is based upon truth (John 14:6; 17:17) and not on false gods or mere external ritualism which He detests (Exo. 34:14; 32:7-9; Hosea 6: 4-6; Amos 5:21; Matt. 15:7-9).

Our text brings out the truth that **because God has granted us access to Himself through our Lord Jesus Christ, our life's priority must be to respond in sincere worship by offering ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to Him.** Verse 22 gives us four practical ways on how to draw near to God.

1. We must draw near to God in _____

Acceptable and pleasing worship to God requires a heart fixed on God. We are to draw near to God with a true (genuine and sincere) heart. A heart that worships in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24). True worship is internal; not the external conformity to ceremonies and rituals (Isa. 29:13; 48:1; Jer. 12:1-2). It comes from a heart that truly seeks God (Deut. 4:29; Jer. 29:13). Because God requires fidelity in our worship, we must come in sincere faith alone.

2. We must draw near to God with _____

"Drawing near" expresses a deep desire to be in the presence of God. Access to God is the fruit of our justification (Rom. 5:1-2) and the delight of God's people (Psalm 42:1-2). Therefore, coming to God is the believers' greatest privilege (Psalm 95:2; 100:21; Heb. 4:16). David sought the intimate presence of God (Psalm 63:1; 16:11; 21:6; 51:11). Because God desires intimacy in our worship, we must cultivate our devotion to Him.

3. We must draw near to God with a _____

Worship is a heart issue. The heart must be sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water (Titus 3:5; Eph. 5:26). Worship brings transformation (ex. Amos 5:21-24). With clean hands and pure hearts (Psalm 24:3-6), true worshippers seek to live pure lives (1 John 3:2) and do not depend upon their own external works righteousness (Matthew 23:27). Because God requires purity of our hearts in our worship, we must seek to live in holiness.

4. We must draw near to God with a _____

God delights in pure hearts and accepts worship from a humble heart (Psalm 34:18; Isaiah 57:15). There is no room for pride and arrogance in true worship (Luke 18:9-14); only humility (James 4:6). Because God delights in humility in our worship, we must be always live to glorify Him.

God created us for His pleasure. Worship is not about us. It's about God. It's about pleasing Him. And we please Him when bring Him glory through our attitudes actions, thoughts and words. Let's pray that God will grant us the desire and His grace to grow in our worship of Him.