

**DO YOU
HAVE
ACCESS TO GOD**

By
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Introduction

Unless you are an atheist if you have never been in the family of God you more than likely would like to have access to God. Although God is not far from each of us some seem to have a hard time finding access to Him. This should never be the case as God wants you to be in His family.

If we but turn to the book of Psalms we will learn that God actually offers access to Himself: (**Psalms 65:4**) *“Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.”* This verse is making reference to the priests that God had chosen. He says “Blessed [happy] is the man whom thou choosest”. Regardless of what God may choose a person for we should be happy to serve the Lord whatever our lot may be; our duty in this life is to serve the Lord. Three young men are the perfect example of serving God (**Daniel 3:17-18**) *“If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. (18) But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”*

As we read in the book of Job some may question serving God: (**Job 21:15**) *“What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?”*

Entire nations can benefit by serving the Lord: (**Psalms 33:12-14**) *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. (13) The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. (14) From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth.”* In verse 12 we are taught to glorify God. Verse thirteen says that God is looking down from heaven and He is watching our every move of everyone; He is not watching just a few, He is watching “all” of mankind!

Has God chosen you to serve Him? God has chosen many to serve Him since the creation; He even chose His Son, Jesus Christ to serve and Jesus fully accepted to do as God chose: (**Mark 10:45**) *“For even the Son of man came **not** to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”* God chose Jesus to serve, Jesus was not chosen to come to earth and be served and the service that was required of him was to give his life as a ransom; what love and obedience this required of Jesus!

If you have accepted God's choosing you need to be as faithful as Jesus was: **(Luke 12:37)** *"Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them."*

There was a time when God chose people to serve Him by directly speaking to them, or through dreams or by angels; you won't receive any such calling today, but you will know when God chooses you!

CHAPTER 1

How Do We Gain Access To God?

If you are traveling down an interstate highway and you want to exit off to another road you have to go to the proper exit ramp to do so. Now if you want to access God you will also need to find the proper way to do so. Friends, through Jesus Christ is the correct and the only way to gain access God. **(John 10:9)** *"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."* If you are walking down the hallway of your home and you want to go to the master bedroom there is a good chance that there is only one door that will allow you access to the master bedroom. The same is true with gaining access to God, you must access the one doorway that will give you access to God and that door according to Jesus is himself. Since Jesus is the genuine Messiah he is the door that we must go through to gain access to God.

In the fourteenth chapter of the gospel of John Jesus makes it very clear that we can have access to God only through him: **(John 14:6)** *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* Jesus had just told his disciples that he was going to prepare a place for them: **(John 14:2)** *"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."* Thomas posed a question: **(John 14:5)** *"Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?"* Thomas is saying; "Jesus we don't even know where you are going, how can we follow you?" Although we may criticize Thomas for asking this question it does seem as though he did want to know the way! If you don't know something don't be afraid to ask. Thomas asked where Jesus was going and what was the way; Jesus answered both of these questions. The answer Thomas sought was right before his eyes; Jesus was the way. Jesus is the highway that Isaiah wrote of: **(Isaiah 35:8)** *"And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools,*

shall not err therein.” The map has been drawn out for us and Jesus Christ is the road that we must travel down. Through his death and resurrection Jesus is the way to God. “Access to God is our destination and Jesus is the way to God.

In Paul’s teachings and writings he taught the same as did Jesus: **(Romans 5:1-2)** *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (2) By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.* Thus far in this epistle Paul has established the fact that man is justified by faith. He now goes on to a full consideration of the topic. In verse two Paul informs that it is through faith we have access to God’s grace. This in reality is the access we are seeking. The expression “have access” in the Greek was often used to introduce someone to the king, this being the case it is through our faith in Jesus that we have “access” to God.

To the Ephesians Paul wrote: **(Ephesians 2:13)** *“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”* Even though we may be “far” from God it is through the blood of Jesus we can have access to God. Paul is giving the Jew’s description of the Gentiles because they considered Gentiles to be “far off” from God. These people to whom Paul was writing were “far off” from Jesus, they were not in the past members of Christ’s church, they had no hope being “far off” from God! We could even say they found themselves in the same position as the prodigal son; “far off” in a foreign country. This is the position that anyone who has never obeyed the gospel find themselves in. But that can be changed through Jesus Christ; through him we can have “access to God”! Paul re-assures them in the next chapter: **(Ephesians 3:12)** *“In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.”* It is only through Jesus that we can have “access to God” and we can do so with “boldness” and with “confidence”. Aren’t you thankful to Jesus for giving you the “access” to God that you so desperately need?

Using different words the Hebrew writer says we have “access to God” through Jesus Christ: **(Hebrews 7:25)** *“Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.* With no uncertain words he wrote that anyone who “comes unto God” through Jesus can have “access to God” because Jesus “ever lives to make intercession for them”. His very name, “Jesus,” means “Yahweh saves.”

This should suffice to prove that it is through Christ and only through him that we have “access to God.

CHAPTER 2

WHY WE SHOULD SEEK

ACCESS TO GOD

Using the same idea of traveling down an interstate highway if you exit off there is a good chance that you have a reason to do so. This chapter will deal with reasons to “seek access to God”.

One reason that comes to my mind immediately is that sinners are commanded to seek the Lord: **(Isaiah 55:6)** *“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:”* We should heed this commandment without delay; there is always the danger of our hearts becoming so hard that we will not desire to seek “access” to him. Luke, the writer of the book of Acts tells us we should “seek the Lord”: **(Acts 17:27)** *“That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:”* God is “not far from man”; the difficulty in finding God is not because God is far from man, the difficulty is that man is far from God because of sin.

James gives us some great assurance: **(James 4:8)** *“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”* Satan opposes everyone who desires to have “access to God”. That is why Christians should always seek to have constant “access to God”. If we “draw nigh to God, he will draw nigh to us”. God has provided all that we need to gain “access” to Him; He gave His Son: **(John 3:16)** *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* God is faithful to respond to anyone who sincerely seek Him; but if we deliberately keep our distance from Him there is nothing He can do! So you see our eternal fate is in our own hands.

Now, today is the time to seek “access to God”: **(2 Corinthians 6:2)** *“(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”* This a quotation from **(Isaiah 49:8)** *“Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;”* Yesterday is past, we can’t change what we did or didn’t do yesterday. Tomorrow is not a safe idea either; we don’t know where we will be or what we might be doing tomorrow. Therefore, today is the day that we need to be seeking “access to God”.

The Psalmist was also aware of an “acceptable” time: (**Psalms 69:13**) *“But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.”* This was a period of time when David’s enemies were speaking ill of him. We may be ridiculed for doing what is right, but must never allow ridicule to prohibit us from doing right. Since David desired to do the things God desired of him he goes to God in prayer; prayer is another way of gaining “access to God”, there will be more on this subject later.

If we fail to seek God there is no escape: (**Hebrews 2:3**) *“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;”* There is no escaping if we neglect to seek God. If we neglect our salvation by putting it off until tomorrow there is grave danger in never accepting the salvation that God offers us through grace. This is a challenge to all sinners; it is a universal appeal. Please don’t neglect your salvation! In the third chapter he gives his readers [which includes you and I] a word of caution: (**Hebrews 3:12-13**) *“Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. (13) “But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”* Take notice how verse twelve begins; “take heed” in other words look about you, notice what you are doing. This was something that required their immediate attention because they might be “hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

I know that all of the references I gave were not direct commands; nonetheless I believe that we should consider them as such.

CHAPTER 3

Access To God Is A Privilege To Christians

Access to God has been a privilege for many years: (**Deuteronomy 4:7**) *“For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for?”* Here Moses addresses their interest by reminding them of all the blessings they had received from God. Moses did this in an effort to get them to remember that God was always ready to hear and give them whatever help they needed. History tells the story of how God gave them the victory over their enemies even when the odds were against them. This is also a privilege that Christians have; God protects us from Satan: (**1 Corinthians 10:13**) *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”* If you are not enjoying this privilege you should seek to have “access to God.”

Look at the confidence the Psalmist had: (**Psalms 23:6**) *“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.”* Many of David’s psalms are full of complaints but the twenty third psalms are full of comfort. David in this psalm is claiming that he had access to God which was indeed a privilege.

Those who walk uprightly and do works of righteousness have confidence in approaching God: (**Psalms 15:1-2**) *“LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? (2) He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.”* Not everyone has this privilege; it is not gained through birth or blood. This is certainly a privilege, and an honor. Just knowing that you can have “access to God” that created you is a privilege that we could not have if it weren’t for the grace of God.

“Access to God is not granted to everyone; the Psalmist describes those who can ascend to “the hill of the Lord” and the one who is granted to “stand in his holy place”: (**Psalms 24:3-4**) *“Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? (4) He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.”*

Here he wonders what he must do to be granted “access” to God’s holy place. It seems as though he desires to become one of God’s different or peculiar people; this should be of particular interest to those who are Christians because we are a “peculiar people”. Jesus gave himself so that he might “purify unto himself a “peculiar people: (**Titus 2:14**) *“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”* Jesus gave himself, redeemed us and paid the ransom for our sins so that we might be a “peculiar people” unto his Father in heaven. Actually being a “peculiar people” we have been made a people of God’s own possession or a people special to God. I don’t care how you look at this it is a privilege. It may be hard to imagine that we are special to God; nonetheless, it is a fact. Jesus is the purchaser of our salvation; he and he alone made it possible for us to be “a peculiar people” by giving himself. Jesus said he laid down his life: (**John 10:17**) *“Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.”* He gave his life; it was not taken from him (**John 10:17**) *“Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.”* Jesus suffered; the just for the unjust: (**1 Peter 3:18**) *“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”* What great love Jesus had and continues to have for you and I; just think of the terrible price he paid so that we can have “access to God”!

Jesus loved us and gave himself for us; can we do anything less than become “a peculiar people” [I.e. a special people] doing God’s will and serving Him everyday of our lives?

The plain simple truth is that Jesus made us to himself a “peculiar people” by purifying us with his own blood.

Peter tells us what is expected of us as God’s own “peculiar people”: **(1 Peter 2:9)** *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”* We are to “praise him”; we are to shout it loud and clear the privilege and the virtues we have being a child of God. As bad as it may seem we do have privileges that non-Christians don’t have. You may think this strange but we have bragging rights; of course this is all made possible because of the price Jesus paid and by the grace of God.

When was the last time you told anyone about the privileges you have being a child of God? I hope you are aware that we are urged to tell and seek others. **(Isaiah 2:3)** *“And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”* Are you one of those who say, “Let’s go to church”?

Jesus, himself spread the word of God, he began to do so in Galilee: **(Matthew 4:23)** *“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.”* In the days of our Lord it was a common practice to have a synagogue wherever there were ten men who were students of the Law; so we find Jesus going where there were people whom he could teach. Matthew says that Jesus went through “all Galilee” teaching and preaching “the gospel of the kingdom”. He preached the good news that the “kingdom” was about to be established. Now that the kingdom, the church has been established we should be just as ambitious in telling others as Jesus was. Having the gospel spread was so important to Jesus that he commissioned his apostles to do as he had done: **(Matthew 28:19)** *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”* Just because we don’t have the apostles of Jesus with us today does not excuse us of telling others of the wonderful privilege we have as Christians. Jesus stirred up the people: **(Luke 23:5)** *“And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place.”* We can and should do likewise.

CHAPTER 4

Sinners Have “Access To God”

Hosea informs us to speak to the Lord about the sin that is in our lives and repent. This final section of Hosea’s prophecy begins with Hosea encouraging the people to repent of their sins and God will renew them to a good standing with Him. (**Hosea 14:2**) *“Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.”* This assurance of renewal should surely prompt anyone to repent of their sins. The people of Hosea’s day needed to turn from false gods and idols and repent. One thing I must point out is that Hosea is addressing people who professed God. We have many who profess to be Christians, yet they are guilty of having idols in their lives. We may not worship idols but we may still be idolizing many different things and activities. Hosea chapter fourteen, verse one through three is a simple invitation for the people to repent: (**Hosea 14:1-3**) *“O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. (2) Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips. (3) Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy.* We see in verse one the danger of their position; they had “fallen” because of their sin. If it was possible for the people of Hosea’s day to fall; is it not also possible for Christians who have left their first love today also to fall from the grace of God? What a blessing it is that anyone who has obeyed the gospel if they should slip back to their old way of life to have “access to God”! I believe that a man by the name of Simon the sorcerer was a man who obeyed the gospel: (**Acts 8:13**) *“Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.”* But he allowed himself to slip back to his old sinful ways: (**Acts 8:18-19**) *“And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, (19) Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.”* There are some who say that that Simon was not really saved; look at verse thirteen closely. It confirms that Simon believed and was baptized; what are the conditions that Jesus gave for salvation? (**Mark 16:16**) *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”* Friends, Simon believed and was baptized; therefore he received remission of his past sins: (**Acts 2:38**) *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”* Yes Simon had received remission of his sins; however after his wanting to buy the power that the apostles had Peter told him that “his heart was not right with God: (**Acts 8:20-21**) *“But Peter said unto him, Thy money*

perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. (21) Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God". Does this mean that Simon is forever lost? Not at all if he will only follow the instructions given to him by Peter: **(Acts 8:22)** *"Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee."* If Simon had never been saved he would not have made his next statement: **(Acts 8:24)** *"Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me."* Thanks to the wonderful grace of God you and I have the same "access to God" that Simon had!

In Joel we have the words of God himself saying "turn to me": **(Joel 2:12)** *"Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:"* This is a clear call for the people to repent and stop sinning. They were instructed to do so "with all their heart. To often our repentance is not with all our hearts; this is probably due to the fact that we enjoy sin more that we want to be right with God. We are to repent with "weeping and with mourning". This is what Paul calls "godly sorrow": **(2 Corinthians 7:10)** *"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."* Godly sorrow is when you are sorrow that you have sinned against God, not simply being sorrow that you got caught. So with "godly sorrow" a Christian who has sinned does have "access to God".

CHAPTER 5

Blessedness Is Connected To Access To God

One of the blessings that we have when have accessed the presence of God is joy and pleasure for evermore: **(Psalms 16:11)** *"Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."* Would anyone deny that there is joy when one enters into a godly life? When we are living to do God's will, surrounded by those of precious like faith life it is pleasant and a joy each day that we serve Him. But we also have the promise of "pleasures for evermore". This could very well be the promise of overcoming death at the resurrection when Jesus comes again. While it is true that David is speaking of escaping death at a critical point in his life he also speaks an eternal pleasure.

The apostle Paul is a good example of gaining access to God by putting Him first: **(Acts 20:24)** *"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."* Even though Paul suffered all kinds of af-

flictions often for the cause of Christ he kept up the good fight and as he wrote here he “finished his course”. What was it that caused Paul not even to consider his own life? He knew what was awaiting him; he looked forward to that eternal pleasure that David wrote about. Like Paul, Christians who live their lives doing God’s will shall die peaceably knowing they will live eternally in pleasure in the presence of God. This is a blessing that is connected to having “access to God”.

David writes that the man [or woman] that approaches or accesses God is “blessed”: **(Psalms 65:4)** *“Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.”* In another psalms David wrote about his desire to be in the presence of God: **(Psalms 27:4-5)** *“One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple. (5) For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.* What is the one thing that you desire; is it to be in the presence of the Lord? David had not always been in the presence of the Lord: **(Psalms 26:4-5)** *“I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers. (5) I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked.* Like David we too have been associated with sinners; do we hate these times or do we enjoy them? We need to make the decision that David made not to “sit with the wicked”! It should not be a difficult decision to decide to ‘sit with the wicked’ or decide to use the ability we have to “access God”.

Also found in the book of Psalms we find that it is “good to be near to God”: **(Psalms 73:28)** *“But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.”* This is a psalm of Asaph. Granted there are those who have pleasure in wealth; don’t they know that nothing lasts forever. Asaph knew that by placing his trust in God he would receive eternal joy and eternal peace. Why can’t more of us come to this knowledge?

I would like to refer to verse twenty seven: **(Psalms 73:27)** *“For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.”* As we consider the fate of those who “are far from” God it becomes much easier to seek “access to God”.

CHAPTER 6

Conclusion

We now come to decision time. We need to decide if we will live our lives as we choose or if we will “access God”. This is a choice that only you can make; no one can decide for you. I might be able to guide you into making the decision to “access God” but the final step you must make; no one can take that step for you.

There is an invitation that I would like for you to be aware of; it is not my invitation, it is an invitation that you can read for yourself and it is found in God’s Word, the Bible: **(Matthew 11:28)** *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* In most Bibles this verse is printed in red ink which indicates that these are words spoken by Jesus. It is not hard to understand that this is an invitation. Even if your Bible is not a Red Letter Edition all you need to do to know that this is an invitation from Jesus is to look at the context; who was speaking before this verse; it was Jesus; therefore this is an invitation from Jesus, the Son of God.

If you have ever had sin in your life and you have; **(Romans 3:23)** *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”* then you are “heavy laden”. If you are living in sin you are in a dangerous position: **(Romans 6:23)** *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* The death that is referred to here is not the physical death it is referring to the second death; eternal separation from God. But notice the “gift of God” that Paul mentions; it is “eternal life” and it can be ours “through Jesus Christ”. “ACCESS TO GOD” is “THROUGH JESUS CHRIST”!

Won’t you give serious thought to the invitation of Jesus? Please read it again: **(Matthew 11:28)** *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”*

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